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SPECIAL ★ REPORT

TIME



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

What it's *really* like since Columbine

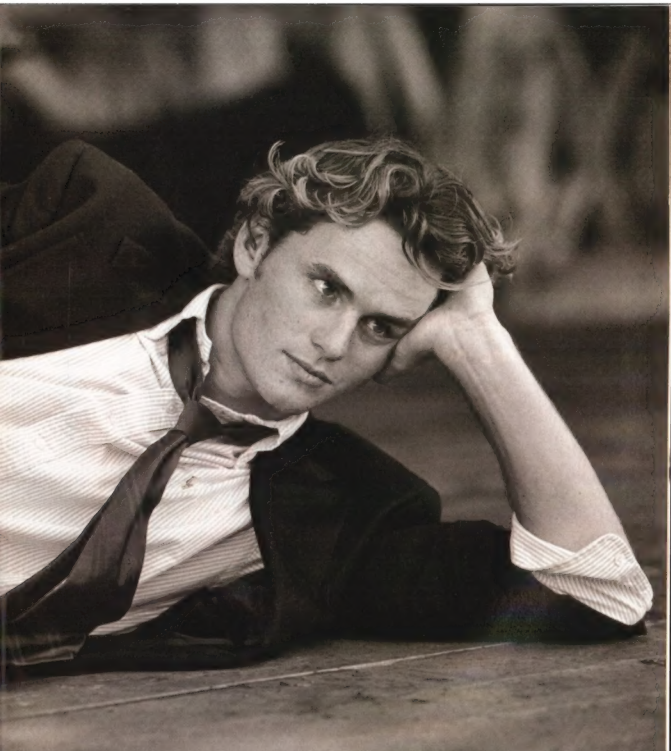
Junior Natalie Rodriguez,  
senior Evan Russell and  
sophomore Sara Story of  
Webster Groves High School  
near St. Louis, Mo.











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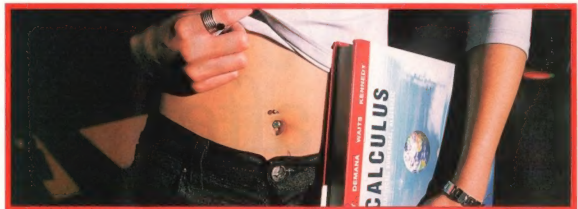
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**Rites of Passage:** Both mathematics and navel rings can be cause for teen trauma in high school (see SPECIAL REPORT)

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COVER: Photograph for TIME by Lauren Greenfield



# We do our after a go



You might have heard about Xenical. It's a unique prescription weight-loss medication that, when combined with a good meal, can actually help you lose weight.

And just what is a good meal? Well, for one thing, it's not a jumbo bucket of fried chicken. Or an all-you-can-eat buffet. A good meal is one that is nutritionally balanced, reduced in calories with no more than 30 percent of calories from fat. What Xenical does is block about one-third of that fat from ever being digested.

So if you're considerably overweight (at least 30 lbs., depending on height), why not ask your doctor whether Xenical is right for you. Because if you're ready to change your eating habits, we'll get right to work. In the end, we think you'll say it's a job well done.





# best work od meal.

Since Xenical blocks about one-third of the fat in the food you eat, you may experience gas or oil with discharge, increased bowel movements, an urgent need to have bowel movements and an inability to control them, particularly after meals containing more fat than recommended.

Xenical shouldn't be taken if you are pregnant, nursing, have food absorption problems or reduced bile flow. Xenical reduces the absorption of some vitamins; therefore, a daily multivitamin is recommended.

Xenical users can enroll in a tailored patient-support program.

Ask your doctor or call 1-800-746-5380

for more information about Xenical. Or

visit our Web site at [www.xenical.com](http://www.xenical.com).



Please see important patient information on the following page.



## Important Patient Information

### Patient Information about XENICAL® (orlistat) Capsules

## XENICAL (zen 'i-cal)

### Generic Name: orlistat

Please read this information before you start taking XENICAL, and each time you renew your prescription. This important information may help you successfully lose weight and maintain your weight loss while taking XENICAL. This patient information is a summary and is not intended to take the place of discussions with your doctor. It does not list all benefits and risks of XENICAL. The medication described here can only be prescribed and dispensed by a licensed health care professional, who has information about your medical condition and more information about the drug, including how to take it, what to expect, and potential side effects. If you have any questions about XENICAL, talk with your doctor.

#### What is XENICAL?

XENICAL is an oral prescription weight loss medication used to help obese people lose weight and keep this weight off. XENICAL works in your intestines, where it blocks some of the fat you eat from being absorbed. This undigested fat is then eliminated in your bowel movements. XENICAL should be used together with a reduced-calorie diet that your doctor will recommend.

Excess weight has been proven to contribute to an increased risk of developing many medical problems, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, and diabetes. The consumption of excess fatty food and calories plays a significant role in the development of excess weight. While fat is an important component of a balanced diet, the consumption of excess fat contributes to excess body weight, since fat provides twice the number of calories per gram of weight as carbohydrates and protein. Reduction of dietary fat intake is one potential way of losing weight.

#### How does XENICAL work?

If you eat an excess amount of fat or calories, the excess is stored as fat by the body resulting in weight gain. When you eat fat, your body breaks it down into its simplest components so that it can be absorbed. Enzymes in your intestinal tract, called lipases, help digest (or breakdown) fat. When you take XENICAL with meals, XENICAL attaches to the lipases and blocks them from breaking down some of the fat you have eaten. The undigested fat cannot be absorbed and is eliminated in your bowel movements. By working this way, XENICAL helps block about 30% of the fat eaten in food from being absorbed by your body.

Following one year of treatment, XENICAL in combination with diet was shown to be more effective in reducing weight than diet alone. In most cases, weight loss was gradual. Patients treated with XENICAL, and a reduced-calorie diet for one year lost an average of 13.4 pounds while those on a reduced-calorie diet alone lost 5.8 pounds.

#### Who should use XENICAL?

A weight loss program that includes a reduced-calorie diet and appropriate physical activity may be adequate in some patients. You should discuss with your doctor or other health care provider whether XENICAL should be added to such a program.

XENICAL may be right for you if you are considerably overweight (at least 30% above ideal weight or a body mass index of 30 or greater). XENICAL may also be right for you if you are overweight (at least 20% above ideal weight or a body mass index of 27 or greater) and also have other risk factors such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, or diabetes.

#### How to determine your body mass index (BMI)

The chart below illustrates BMI according to a variety of weights and heights. The BMI is calculated by dividing your weight in kilograms by your height in meters squared. To use this chart:

- Find the height closest to your height in the left-hand column.
- Then move across the top row to find the weight closest to your weight.
- The number where these two meet is your BMI. For example, a person who weighs 180 lbs and is 5'5" would have a BMI of 30.1.

HEIGHT (in)	WEIGHT (lb)																									
	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320	330	340	350
4'10"	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
4'11"	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
5'0"	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
5'1"	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
5'2"	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
5'3"	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
5'4"	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
5'5"	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
5'6"	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
5'7"	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61
5'8"	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
5'9"	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
5'10"	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
5'11"	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
6'0"	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
6'1"	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
6'2"	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
6'3"	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
6'4"	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
6'5"	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
6'6"	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
6'7"	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
6'8"	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74
6'9"	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
6'10"	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76
6'11"	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
7'0"	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78

#### Who should not use XENICAL?

- Those who:
- consistently have problems absorbing food (chronic malabsorption); or
  - have gallbladder problems; or
  - are pregnant or are breastfeeding a child; or
  - have ever had an allergic reaction to orlistat or any of the inactive ingredients in XENICAL.

#### What should I tell my doctor before taking XENICAL?

Before beginning treatment with XENICAL, make sure your doctor knows if you are:

- allergic to any medicines, foods, or dyes;
- taking any other weight loss medication;

- taking cyclosporine;
- taking any other medicines (including those not prescribed by your doctor);
- taking any dietary supplements, including herbal products;
- planning to become pregnant; or
- anorexic or bulimic.

This information will help you and your physician decide if the expected advantages of XENICAL are greater than any possible disadvantages.

#### How should I take XENICAL?

The recommended dose is one 120 mg capsule by mouth with liquid at each main meal that contains fat. You can take XENICAL in conjunction with a mildly reduced-calorie diet up to 3 times a day. Each time you take XENICAL, your meal should contain no more than about 30% of calories from fat. Take XENICAL during meals or up to one hour after a meal. If you occasionally miss a meal or have a meal without fat, you can omit your dose of XENICAL. Doses greater than 120 mg three times a day have not been shown to provide an additional weight loss benefit.

You should use XENICAL together with a nutritionally balanced, mildly reduced-calorie diet that contains no more than about 30% of calories from fat. You should evenly divide your daily intake of fat, carbohydrates, and protein over 3 main meals.

You should try to follow a healthy eating plan such as the one developed by the American Heart Association. Following this eating plan will help you lose weight while decreasing some of the possible gastrointestinal effects you may experience while taking XENICAL.

#### THE RECOMMENDED DAILY GRAMS OF FAT (in a 30% fat diet) ARE:

IF YOUR DAILY CALORIE LEVEL IS:	GRAMS OF FAT
1500	50
1800	53
1900	55
2000	57

#### Should I take a multivitamin with XENICAL?

XENICAL interferes with your body's absorption of some fat-soluble vitamins. Therefore, when you use XENICAL, you should take a daily multivitamin supplement that contains vitamins D, E, K, and beta-carotene. Take your multivitamin once a day at least 2 hours before or after taking XENICAL, such as at bedtime.

#### Can I take XENICAL while taking other medications?

Be sure to discuss with your doctor all medications (including herbal products) you are currently taking, including medicines you can get without a prescription (over-the-counter), to determine if XENICAL can be taken in addition to these medications.

#### How long should I use XENICAL?

The use of XENICAL for more than 2 years has not been studied. You and your doctor should discuss how long you should use XENICAL.

#### What are the most common side effects of XENICAL?

Because XENICAL works by blocking the absorption of dietary fat, it is likely that you will experience some changes in bowel habits. These generally occur during the first weeks of treatment; however, they may continue throughout your use of XENICAL. These changes may include oily spotting, gas with discharge, urgent need to go to the bathroom, oily or fatty stools, an oily discharge, increased number of bowel movements, and inability to control bowel movements. Due to the presence of undigested fat, the oil seen in a bowel movement may be clear or have a coloration such as orange or brown.

These bowel changes are a natural effect of blocking the fat from being absorbed and indicate that XENICAL is working. They generally occur early in treatment, particularly after meals containing higher amounts of fat than are recommended. These symptoms are often temporary and may lessen or disappear as you continue treatment and keep to your recommended diet of meals containing no more than about 30% fat. However, these side effects may occur in some individuals over a period of 6 months or longer.

If you are concerned about these or any other side effects you experience while taking XENICAL, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

#### What lifestyle changes should I consider when taking XENICAL?

You must use XENICAL with a recommended mildly reduced-calorie diet. You should also follow a program of regular physical activity, such as walking. However, before you undertake any activity or exercise program, be sure to speak with your doctor or health care professional.

#### How can I reduce dietary fat?

To help you get started on reducing the fat in your diet to around 30%, read the labels on all the foods you buy. You should avoid foods that contain more than 30% fat while you are taking XENICAL.

- When eating meat, poultry or fish, limit your portion to 2 or 3 ounces (roughly the size of a deck of cards). Choose lean cuts of meat and remove the skin from poultry. Fill up your meal plate by including more grains, fruits, and vegetables.
- Replace whole-milk products with nonfat or 1% milk and nonfat, reduced-fat, or low-fat dairy items.
- Cook with less fat. Use vegetable oil spray when cooking. Salad dressings, many baked items, and prepackaged, processed, and fast foods are usually high in fat. Use the low- or non-fat versions and/or cut back on serving sizes.
- When dining out, ask how foods are prepared and request that they be prepared with little or no added fat.



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# A Big Story—Seen Through a Microscope

**A**S A RULE, HIGH SCHOOLS DON'T MAKE NATIONAL NEWS UNLESS something terrible has happened, as was unfortunately the case last spring at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. For this week's 35-page special report, however, TIME chose Webster Groves, a suburb of St. Louis, Mo., in part because it has not been benighted by violence.

In fact, we were attracted to the school because it was ... well, remarkably average. Curiously enough, given its serene and unnewsworthy nature, Webster Groves has been the subject of inordinate national attention over the years—happily so in 1996, when President Clinton came to honor the school's antidrug efforts, less happily in 1965, when a CBS News team, led by producer Arthur Barron and renowned correspondent Charles Kuralt, arrived to film *Sixteen in Webster Groves*, a one-hour documentary about the town and its high school-age adolescents.

When the show aired in February 1966, the community recoiled at its nationally televised image. The qualities residents cherished most had been turned against them: safety and security became insularity and complacency, their sense of propriety came off as snobbery, their prosperity as materialism. People were livid, and some still are. Chicago correspondent Stacy Perman tracked down several who were there during the filming. Most recall the program as "a hatchet job" but concede that it had its points. "Looking back," says Doug Wheeler, class of '67 and now an emergency-room doctor in Jefferson City, Mo., "there was more truth to it than we wanted to admit at the time."

Webster Groves' lasting bitterness made it all the more surprising that school administrators would even consider allowing our team of eight reporters, under the command of assistant managing editor Dan Goodgame, and five photographers, guided by deputy picture editor Hillary Raskin, to invade their world. They were in part impressed

with last year's award-winning special issue, "A Week in the Life of a Hospital," about the Duke University Medical Center, which we told them would be a model for this project. But they were also persuaded by our regional ambassador, team member and Midwest bureau chief Ron Stodghill, whose father is superintendent of another suburban St. Louis school district. "Having grown up in a family of public school educators," says

Penetrating the Byzantine world of high school requires a certain degree of tradecraft. Photographers Bob Sacha and Andre Lambertson, both veterans of the Duke campaign, showed their expertise at maneuvering in a complex social group. Religion writer David Van Biema, as he had at Duke, concentrated on the sensitive issues of death and faith. Photographers Joe McNally, Lauren Greenfield and Steve Liss managed to place themselves in the midst of teenage action most outsiders never get to see.

The closest we came to subterfuge was in putting three of our youngest staff members, reporters Andrew Goldstein and Flora Tartakovsky and writer-reporter Jodie Morse, on the project. Goldstein, a recent arrival at TIME,

brought to the assignment three years of teaching at a private high school in New Jersey. There are still kids at Webster Groves who think, wrongly, that Morse and Tartakovsky were posing as students. To be sure, Tartakovsky, a graduate of New York City's Bronx High School of Science and of Harvard, class of '98, could pass for a high school senior, but at no time did she try to hide her identity.

Beyond tradecraft, there is the larger question of why we would want to concentrate on just one school. "Some-

times, in order to tell a really big story," answers senior editor and key team member Nancy Gibbs, "we've found that it's best to look at it in miniature—in this case to spend a lot of time in one school and try to figure out what pressures it faces, what is working, what isn't and what has really changed since last spring, when we all discovered how complicated high schools can be." Allowed to peel back the layers of Webster Groves, TIME's team was able to show how remarkable high school really is.

*Barrett Seaman*

Barrett Seaman, Special Projects Editor



**TEAM WEBSTER:** Back row, from left: Roche, Gibbs, Sacha, Lambertson, Raskin, Liss. Front row: Goodgame, Morse, Tartakovsky, Perman, Stodghill. Missing: Seaman, Goldstein, Van Biema, McNally, Greenfield

Stodghill, "I've seen firsthand the dedication and hard work of these people under fairly trying circumstances."

Once having opened their school to us, principal Pat Voss, superintendent Bill Gussner and their staffs were not only candid but encouraged others to be so too. They were understandably protective of their adolescent charges, but as it turned out, so were we. Atlanta correspondent Tim Roche, a veteran of school-violence stories in Conyers, Ga., and Pearl, Miss., was once again struck by how unguarded kids can be. Like the rest of us, he found himself "often protecting them from themselves" as he sifted through his notes.



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— Fred Lugano, weatherization.com, Vermont

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# LETTERS



## The Man Who Could Beat Gore

**“Any presidential candidate who drives a 1984 car has my vote! Bill Bradley speaks to the goodness of the American people.”**

JOHN MARTIN  
West Hartford, Conn.

WITH BILL BRADLEY RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT [CAMPAIGN 2000, Oct. 4], Americans have the opportunity to elect a man of extraordinary stature, brilliance, experience and, above all, wisdom. Rather than insulting us with the usual glitz and pizzazz, Bradley challenges us to understand and confront the real issues.

NANCY MCK. CRIBARI  
Rowley, Mass.

BRADLEY KNOWS THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME to offer his leadership gifts to our country. He is an exemplary role model for our children. Bradley possesses a tough

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PAUL L. WHITELEY SR.  
Louisville, Ky.

ALTHOUGH BRADLEY WRAPS HIMSELF IN a mantle of Scottish-Irish virtues, he cannot conceal the fact that he’s just another tax-and-spend liberal Democrat. Doesn’t he know the most venerated ideal of the Scottish Irish is thrift?

SANDRA MCKAY QUESENBERRY  
Clinton, Ohio

ARE THE MEDIA MISSING A REVEALING factor in Bradley’s campaign for the presidency? You reported on such telling elements as his need for solitude, detachment and introspection. While these traits are admirable enough, they are not the critical ones needed for an individual who aspires to be President of the U.S. and leader of the free world. Such an awesome environment is not the place for anyone who seems more comfortable with the contemplative life.

ROBERT SABBATO JR.  
Mifflintown, Pa.

WE IN CANADA HAVE MORE THAN A PASSING interest in the future President of the U.S. Please elect the type of individual who will represent the spirit of freedom of choice for all. Why do the American people continue to be inundated with secondhand intellectuals in the theater of American politics?

The only real candidate out there thus far, John McCain, is enigmatic and probably too straightforward to cope with the vital internationalism of the presidency. Gore is due for an early retirement package. He has never been his own man, relying too heavily on polls, as Clinton does. That is anathema to leadership. Restoring America as the cure-all

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1974

# Arts and Leisure Guide

Highlights & Index to Listings

Theater



Weather Report

Translate

10°

August 1974

Photos by Vik  
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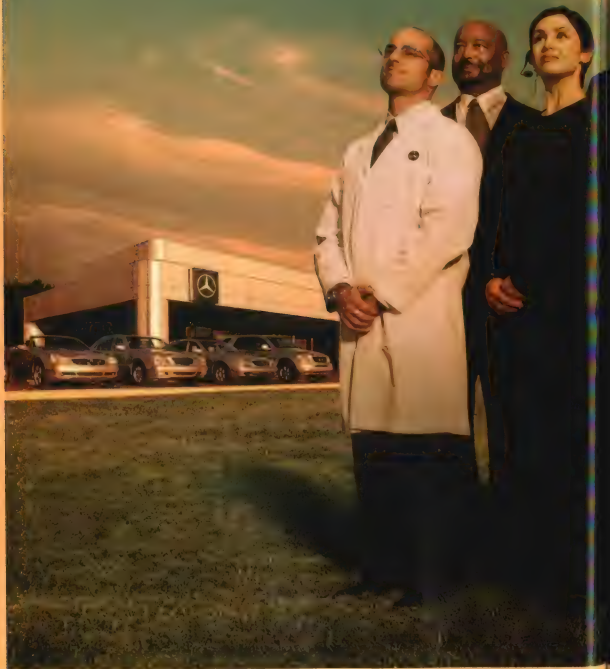


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MIKE BOUCHARD  
Burlington, Ont.

THE MEDIA SEEM GENUINELY AFFECTED by Bradley's quixotic idealism. You reported that Bradley can get "cranky" on the campaign trail. Thank God! Any candidate who could endure the American political circus and not get cranky doesn't deserve my vote. Further proof for this 26-year-old that the Bradley revolution is real is that Bradley is not only "The Man Who Could Beat Gore," he is, quite simply, the Man.

JOSEPH BEYER  
North Hollywood

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT BRADLEY, A BRILLIANT Midwestern intellectual, is the tall man's Adlai Stevenson. Bradley even has Stevenson's famous "egghead."

MARGARET JANE KEPHART  
Boulder, Colo.

## GARTH KICKS LOOSE



As country-music star Garth Brooks heads off in a new, pop-rock direction, (MUSIC, Oct. 4), we hark back to our cover story "Country's Big Boom," which showcased Brooks when he emerged as one of country music's top new performers (March 30, 1992). We wrote:

"Brooks is a pretty half songwriter and a hokey holy terror of a performer. He has a solid pleasant voice ... and he's possessed of a mean weather eye for prevailing winds of show biz ... What has given Brooks his edge is serendipity, and a keen sense of timing. 'I really admire him,' says Reba McEntire. 'He has great instincts, and he is great at marketing.' Brooks' inspiration was to kick loose, not at the conventions of music so much as at the constraints governing performance. His music has enough rock echo to catch the ear of anyone fleeing rap or dance synth on the radio, but it's not aggressive ... It certainly isn't haunting—you have to search far afield from Brooks before you glimpse the ghost of Hank Williams—but it is insinuating ... it sure goes down smooth."

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CONNIE PEPPER BUTURAIN  
Cincinnati, Ohio

BRADLEY MAY NOT BE WHAT AMERICA wants, but he is what America needs.

GARY L. REEVES  
St. Charles, Mo.

## R.F.K. Said It Better?

TIME QUOTED BILL BRADLEY AS SAYING, "The Dow Jones is at record heights," but "such numbers are not the measure of all things. They do not measure what is in our heads and our hearts. They do not measure a young girl's smile or a little boy's first handshake or a grandmother's pride ... They tell us little about the magic of a good marriage or the satisfaction of a life led true to its own values." Robert Kennedy said it better in February 1968: he referred to the fact that the gross national product was rising above \$800 billion a year but said that figure does not measure "the health of our youth, the quality of their education or the joy of their play ... the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials ... It measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile."

ARTHUR SCHLESINGER JR.  
New York City

## Trouble in Gore Country

SO THE VICE PRESIDENT HAS IMAGE PROBLEMS [NATION, Oct. 4] because of his misstatements, a dull personality, an embryonic platform, an underfunded presidential race and his living in the shadow of a strong President? Well, move over, Dan Quayle; make room for Gore!

JOHN HARPER  
Lufkin, Texas

YES, SEVERAL MILLION OF US LOVE AND trust Gore. But in our hearts we know the only Democrat who has a chance to beat Republican front runner George W. Bush is Bradley. Keep the tailgate down, Bill. Lots of us are trying to hop on.

FRANK MANN  
Alba, Fla.

## Confusion over Fact or Fiction

EDMUND MORRIS' *DUTCH*, THE SO-CALLED biography (excuse me, "memoir") of Ronald Reagan, manages to smear unfairly not only the 40th President of the U.S. but the writing profession as well

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## CAMPAIGN 2020?



When Frances B. Bailey of Florence, S.C., saw our Spotlight drawing [NOTEBOOK, Aug. 23] of Warren Beatty as a presidential

aspirant, she was reminded of a long-ago People Item we ran on leading men Beatty and Robert Redford as presidential candidates of the future [Nov. 17, 1980]. Wrote Bailey: "Am I the only one who remembers this? You ran pictures of Warren Beatty and Robert Redford with the caption 'The presidential candidates of the future take to the stump.' You noted that Dustin Hoffman believed the two American screen idols would be political contenders. But in view of what's happening now with several stars testing the waters, isn't this déjà vu?"



We congratulate Ms. Bailey for an excellent memory and give ourselves a pat on the back for political prescience. Maybe it's time to start predicting which actor-politicians will be in the 2020 race for office. Leonardo DiCaprio? Gwyneth Paltrow?

[NATION, Oct. 4]. Your reviewer stated, "In the end, however, the fact/fiction bipolarity erodes some of the book's brilliance." There is no brilliance here; there is instead a cunningly conceived attempt and intent to deceive. The interweaving of fact and fiction has no place in a biography. Truth has a place here. And fiction is not truth. Morris' cowardice is evident, since he well knows that his subject can no longer defend himself.

LARRY SIRINSKY  
Skokie, Ill.

SHAKESPEARE ALREADY HAD THE PERFECT title for a Reagan biography: *Much Ado About Nothing*.

ESTHER G. KORETZ  
Henniker, N.H.

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# Football's Magic Flutie

DOUG FLUTIE, ALL 5'9½", 175 POUNDS OF HIM, WAS buried on the Boston College roster as the Eagles prepared for Penn State in 1981. He was a fourth-string freshman quarterback clutching one of the last scholarships handed out by Eagles coach Jack Bicknell. Flutie's only offer from a Division I-A program. Doubting himself for the only time in his life, he says now, he was ready to ask Bicknell to move him to wide receiver.

But when BC fell behind 38-0 in the fourth quarter against the Nittany Lions, Bicknell had nothing to lose. "Flutie!" he called, turning to the Natick, Mass., native. "Get in there and see what you can do."

"Immediately, you could sense a difference in the game," Bicknell says today. "That's when I knew this guy was special."

Oh, Flutie didn't engineer a miracle comeback—those would come later. He did pass for 135 yards and a touchdown, take the regular QB job, revive the BC program and start down an improbable path to winning the 1984 Heisman Trophy his senior year.

A stirring early win at Alabama set the tone for Flutie's Heisman season. He ran and passed BC to a 38-31 victory after trailing by 17 in the third quarter—the eighth time in his career he had led the Eagles from behind to win in the second half. "It was amazing the effect Doug had on people," Bicknell says. "He made everybody believe that unless the game was over we were still in it."

With fans across the country rooting him on, Flutie emerged as the clear Heisman favorite. A school-record six touchdown passes against North Carolina helped maintain his front-runner status heading into a Nov. 23 showdown at defending national champion Miami. He knew it was his last chance to sway the voters who hadn't already submitted ballots. He didn't know it would be one of the greatest games in football history.

With six seconds left and the Hurricanes up 45-41, Flutie took a snap at the Miami 48 and backpedaled, rolled to his right and let fly from his own 37-yard line. The Pass, as it became

known, whistled 64 yards into a stiff wind, just over Hurricanes defenders and into the arms of Eagles wideout Gerard Phelan, who fell in the end zone, and, in his words, "held that thing against my shoulder pads like it was my first-born." BC won 47-45, and Flutie's 472 passing yards made him the first Division I-A player ever with more than 10,000 in a career.

The Heisman, awarded the next Saturday, was mere formality. After BC blasted Holy Cross to wrap up a 9-2 regular season in which Flutie completed 60% of his passes with 27 TDs, a private plane jetted him to New York. A helicopter then took him and girlfriend—now wife—Laurie from the airport to the Downtown Athletic Club. "I thought of the guys in the past who have won it," says Flutie, 36, who keeps the trophy in his living room. "It's amazing to be in that fraternity."

Flutie's slight build, humility and constant smile had endeared him to the nation like few other Heisman winners before or since. The interview requests rolled in. President Reagan invited him to the White House. "People identified with him," Bicknell says. "He's all of what you'd hope your superstars would be."

And it's even more true today. Flutie's son Dougie, 7, has severe autism, a brain disorder. Doug, an All-Pro with the Buffalo Bills, devotes many hours to Dougie's care. He has also helped other families with autistic kids by establishing the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation

for Autism ([www.dougflutie.org](http://www.dougflutie.org)). Thanks largely to sales of Flutie Flakes cereal and his 10-10-220 long distance service promotion, the foundation has raised more than \$1.5 million for research and services since April of 1998. A late-October Flutie Gang CD on which Doug plays drums will also help.

"Football has helped me understand about taking this challenge head-on, trying to do something about it, rather than feeling sorry for myself," he says. Now Flutie hopes his most important triumph is still to come. —Brad Young



Overcoming challenges in football has inspired Flutie's mission to help his autistic son Dougie.

PHOTO: KATHLEEN CAMBER/THANUN WITH INQUIRY; C.J. QUINTER WITH SON



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blend of fact and fiction, his easy manner and his confident disregard of reality led him to unflinchingly say what America wanted to hear. Morris' confusing mixture of the real and fanciful exactly fits what was the reality of Reagan's America.

RAY DIRKS  
Winnipeg, Canada

REAGAN MANIPULATED THE AMERICAN public, adorning his pallid political views with slogans and platitudes. He was incredibly ignorant of American public policy. And that's fact—not fiction.

DON RADEMACHER  
Glendale, Calif.

WITH THE PUBLICATION OF MORRIS' biography, the media have once again jumped at the chance to rekindle their Reagan bashing. Reagan was not a simpleton; he just had a simple message. He wanted to free Americans from excessive government, and he wanted to win the cold war. Reagan's message may not have been complex enough for the intellectuals, but at least he didn't put his finger to the wind and take a poll before making decisions. I will always respect him for being a man of convictions.

BILL CLINGER  
Harper, Ohio

RONALD REAGAN CERTAINLY DESERVES AT least an Academy Award for acting like a U.S. President.

JOSEPH B. MIRSKY  
West Palm Beach, Fla.

## Bending Historical Truth

IN HIS INFORMATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE recent spate of fictionalized memoirs [ESSAY, Oct. 4], Charles Krauthammer bewails "how far we've come in bending the notion of historical truth." One cannot help wondering why he did not mention the four most widely known examples of apologetically inspired fictionalization: the canonical Gospels. Krauthammer's examples of "brazen confabulators who make up their histories and the slavish academics who justify them" are simply following the examples of the ancient Evangelists and the modern Evangelicals. What goes around comes around.

THOMAS W. HALL JR.  
Foster, R.I.

## Dung-Covered Madonna

HOORAY FOR NEW YORK CITY MAYOR Rudolph Giuliani for denouncing the dung-covered Madonna collage being exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum of Art

and for attempting to cut off public funding for the museum [NATION, Oct. 4]. Our society needs more courageous, moral people like Mayor Giuliani to stand up against the filth that is constantly being thrust upon us by left-wing liberals in the arts and entertainment.

AUGUSTUS S. HUSSELTON  
Harrisburg, Pa.

ONCE AGAIN NEW YORK'S BULLY-BOY Mayor has demonstrated his disregard for the Constitution by his cynical manipulation of religious sensibilities for selfish political ends. The Brooklyn Museum is fulfilling its mission; Giuliani's only aim is personal aggrandizement.

MICHAEL A. JAMES  
Los Angeles

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE REACTION IF THE following icons were going to be exhibited in a New York City museum: an image of Martin Luther King Jr. smeared with dung, an image of Muhammad or of the Star of David befooled with dung?

KEN KELLER  
Peasee Valley, Ky.

## TIME'S EXTENDED FAMILY



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## Einstein's Troubling Behavior

AFTER READING THE REVELATIONS IN THE book *Einstein's Daughter* about the physicist's illegitimate child [HISTORY, Oct. 4], I felt it was tragic that Einstein chose to pursue his career plans and left others to care for his newborn daughter. I have always had great respect for Einstein's brilliant scientific accomplishments. Sadly, his character flaws were just as enormous as his intellect was exceptional. Ultimately, proof of his selfish behavior will diminish Einstein's legacy. Instead, he will become a prime example of how men can master difficult branches of knowledge but lack the wisdom to love their families.

BRENT MUIRHEAD  
Alpharetta, Ga.

YOUR WRITER CONCLUDED HIS PIECE ON Einstein by stating, "That he was a flawed human being is not only fascinating in a tabloid sort of way but reassuring as well. It makes our heroes, even those of unfathomable genius, seem a little more like us." If saying that of Einstein works, then it also works for Clinton.

LYNN STEPHAN  
Wichita, Kans.

## Celebrating China's 50th

READING YOUR REPORT ON CHINA'S 50TH anniversary [WORLD, Oct. 4], one would think Maoist China was a disaster. But when I visited the People's Republic in 1971, I saw something different. Peasants and workers were transforming their lives. China was looked to admiringly by people worldwide. What a difference from today's China, where once again extremes of wealth and poverty are creating degradation and misery.

MARY LOU GREENBERG  
New York City

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## POLICY FORUM

## Simple Solutions

By Patrick G. Hays

Sometimes our nation's social problems seem so overwhelming that we fear we can never solve them. It's tempting to just give up. But the rising number of uninsured Americans—more than 43.4 million—is one problem Congress can help to solve. Right now.

The challenge is to develop targeted solutions that reach specific people. For example, more than 83 percent of Americans who lack health insurance either have jobs themselves or have spouses or parents who work. Although these uninsured people work, their incomes are too low to afford insurance premiums. This problem is greatest among the smallest businesses, where 35 percent of employees are uninsured. To address the situation, our nation needs to find ways to help small companies offer insurance. Congress can make this happen.

First, the government should provide tax credits for low-income workers in small firms. In addition, Congress should allow the self-employed—along with other people who purchase health insurance outside an employer group—to deduct the full cost of health insurance premiums from their income taxes.

Finally, lawmakers must resist the many proposed public policy schemes that will increase the cost of health care. These proposals will only make the problems of the uninsured worse.

The government faces a choice: foster solutions today or aggravate an already grievous social problem for tomorrow. Let's urge our lawmakers to make the right decision.

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## Who Should Be the Person of the Century?

TIME's continuing series of special issues on the 100 most influential people of the 20th century will culminate in December, when we will name a single figure as the Person of the Century. To help the magazine's editors make the choice, we are asking a select group of people to tell us whom they would pick. Here are the latest intriguing nominations:



**BORN** July 18, 1918  
1944 Joins the anti-apartheid African National Congress  
1962-96 Imprisoned for high treason  
1991 Becomes president of A.N.C.  
1994 Elected South Africa's President  
1999 Retires from presidency

**NELSON MANDELA** At the end of the 20th century, the life of Nelson Mandela stands out as one of unparalleled political courage and personal dignity in the fight against one of this century's great evils. By overcoming the evil of racial discrimination in one nation, Mandela set an example of hope and persistence for all of the united nations.

Mandela's refusal to compromise his beliefs during the long years of his imprisonment, his insistence that racial equality become a reality for all South Africans, his determination to pursue truth and lasting reconciliation upon his release and his election as the President of South Africa serve as vivid and universal lessons in the ability of mankind to create what Mandela, 35 years ago in a Pretoria courtroom, called his cherished ideal of "a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities."

—Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General, U.N.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**

Confronting the issues of slavery and race has been fundamental in America's development. A successful outcome was achieved only through dedication and sacrifice. The first stage was the abolition of slavery, the source of great shame. The next step was an end to legal segregation, and then the guarantee to all Americans of the right to vote. The final stage was equal access to capital for everyone. Dr. King led the 20th century drive to transform American culture. He fought to end segregation by changing the law. If Dr. King had not succeeded and Congress had not passed the 1965 Voting Rights Act, we would not have the multiracial, multicultural society we have today. Dr. King dispelled the notion that just because you were black, you could not lead. The healer, the builder of bridges, the one who changed the laws was Dr. King. As a leader he had no peer.

—The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, founder and president, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

**BORN** Jan. 15, 1929

1957 Founds Southern Christian Leadership Conference, leads nonviolent fight against racism  
1963 Organizes March on Washington to support proposed civil rights legislation  
1968 Assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.



## READERS PUT WOMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

I nominate Margaret Sanger. She won for women the right and means to control the number of children they have; she laid the path to a sane future.

Mary Ellen Johnston  
Owasso, Okla.

Margaret Thatcher as Britain's Prime Minister changed the course of history. Her idea of the individual as

the source of authority, as opposed to the state, has gained ground and grown in every continent. Country after country has denationalized moribund industries and opened the political process. Thatcher not only is the Person of the 20th Century, she best represents the idea of the 21st.

James Koenig  
Richmond, Calif.





Tim Padgett/Crawfordsville

## In the Company of Men

An all-male college, once embattled, now finds that its gender is hip

**F**ORGIVE MY ALMA MATER if the best it can do for a homecoming queen is a student in drag, Wabash, a small, liberal-arts college in Crawfordsville, Ind., is all male—one of only three such schools in the U.S. The student newspaper is called the *Bachelor*, and freshmen still shout the school song from the chapel steps each fall with more ferocity and face paint than the Scots wore in *Braveheart*.

But the testosterone level turns on the 1290s to the 1990s when I sit down with students from the Men and Masculinity course. Its wide-open discussions, on books and films as varied as *Black Boy* and *Adam's Rib*, dissect

their assumptions about manhood. Jimmy Burrell, a gay student who took the class as a freshman two years ago, says it helped him come out of the closet. Physics major David Woessner, meanwhile, was inspired by works like *Shane* to embrace the virtues of chivalry—when there are women around to practice them with. I ask the guys about the less than chivalrous behavior of President Clinton, whose attorney during the Monica Lewinsky mess was a Wabash

**Unabashedly proud** alumni sport school colors to homecoming

alumnus, David Kendall. Says Scott Berger, a football player: "I think Clinton betrayed his gender."

Wabash, remarkably, has preserved its gender—and has even made it a trendy selling point. Men's colleges once looked about as viable as castrato choirs. But Wabash, independent since it was founded in 1832, is giving its Georgian campus a \$100 million face lift, with modern science and sports facilities, and has just enrolled one of its largest and smartest freshman classes in years. It's a tribute to the college's richly intimate teaching traditions: its fewer than 1,000 students, from all economic backgrounds, often learn as much over dinner and wine tastings at professors' houses as they do in the classroom. But it may also reflect the fact that males are a fashionable subject again. The men's movement, and the rise of male-sympathetic feminists like Susan Faludi, have lent quaint Wabash a hip cachet. "An important liberal-arts ideal is 'Know thyself,'" says Wabash president Andrew Ford. "Sometimes you can do that best, or more comfortably, among your own gender, and we offer that choice."

Another liberal-arts ideal is "Know thy world," which is why, even as I prize the education I received there, I favor admitting women. Being all male hasn't always been easy for Wabash—especially after it voted down co-education in 1992. Right-wing think tanks, hoping to adopt the college as a mascot, mounted a nasty

campaign to roll back the school's long history of multicultural studies, while hard-core feminists stormed the campus with politically correct, male-bashing lectures like "Athletes as Rapists."

But Wabash held its academic ground—and instead co-opted the decade's new male zeitgeist. Even traditional courses like mythology examine "male/female" archetypes, with readings from Camille Paglia and Robert Bly. "In this day of the Million Man March, the college's Malcolm X Institute has assumed a larger influence on campus. Alumni are hailed not just in Big Business (former AT&T chairman Robert Allen) but also in show business (Broadway costume designer Tom Broecker), and Wabash was the first college to produce the Pulitzer-prizewinning play about AIDS, *Angels in America*. At the same time, Wabash's old-fashioned but effective code, 'The Gentleman's Rule'—which says the only rule is that students behave like gentlemen—is winning grudging applause at national higher-education conferences.

Still, though the co-education debate has died down, it quietly lingers among faculty. "Women still need women's colleges because society's playing field isn't level yet," argues classics professor Leslie Day, one of 17 women on the faculty and a graduate of all-female Bryn Mawr College. "I worry that the message the guys get here is that women are just for weekends." She rolls her eyes as a student enters her office wearing a jesting T-shirt that reads WARASH DOESN'T NEED WOMEN.

Academic reputation, of course, matters more than male bonding. "I came here in spite of it being all male," says a student who was lured by the demanding pre-med program. But for the time being, Wabash is reaping the rewards of being true to its gender. ■



**“Sometimes you can ‘know thyself’ best among your own gender.” —ANDREW FORD**



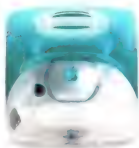
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Color: Blueberry.



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# NOTEBOOK

## VERBATIM

**“Everybody stopped for a minute. Then they started playing again. Not too long after it hit, [the slot-machine area] got even busier than before.”**

**CANDY MCCAIN,**

*Las Vegas tourist at the Mirage in the aftermath of the 7.0 earthquake that struck the Southern California desert Saturday morning*

**“A military takeover of this kind ... does make it difficult to continue business as usual.”**

**MADELEINE ALBRIGHT,**

*Secretary of State, on the military coup in Pakistan*

**“This will go down in history as the least coveted invitation in Washington.”**

**ANONYMOUS INVITEE**

*to a party for Pat Buchanan's book, in which he says the U.S. shouldn't have entered W.W. II*

**“I can't. My husband's famous.”**

**MICHELLE PFEIFFER,**

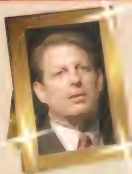
*spouse of David E. Kelley (creator of Ally McBeal, The Practice, Chicago Hope), on going into hiding*

Sources—McCain, Albright: AP; Invites: Rushing/Poll; Pfeiffer: Harper's Bazaar



**LITTLE GIRL LOST** In death, JonBenet Ramsey has become the poster child for frustration, finger pointing and ugly rumor. As hope fades of ever establishing who killed her nearly three years ago, will the quest for justice fade away?

## WINNERS & LOSERS



**AL GORE**

Tin man cuts smart nuke ad, finally gets AFL-CIO nod. Now all he needs is a heart

**MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES**

French medical group nabs Nobel. Thank goodness no HMOs in Kosovo

**ALAN ALDA**

Stat! M\*A\*S\*H doc checks into ER. Scrubs always suited him better than Woody Allen flicks

**BILL CLINTON**

Lame-duck prez loses test-ban vote. But issue could nuke G.O.P.—and W.—next year

**STOCK MARKET**

October blues sends market down. Did we really think Yahoo was worth more than Texaco?

**KEN STARR**

Independent counsel finally quits job. Well, even Javert eventually packed it in





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## CRIME

## Did an Intruder Kill JonBenet Ramsey?

ALTHOUGH NO SUSPECTS OTHER THAN **JOHN** and **PATSY RAMSEY** have been named in the 1996 murder of their daughter **JONBENET**, a key figure in the investigation remains convinced that the killer was a pedophile bent on kidnapping who broke into the Boulder, Colo., home and assaulted the six-year-old while her family slept.

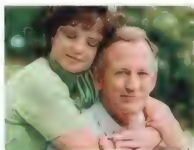
**LOU SMIT**, a retired Colorado Springs homicide detective, worked on the case for 18 months before quitting in protest over the direction the probe was going. Smit formed another theory using key pieces of evidence. He believes the killer may have spotted JonBenet as she glided by in a convertible in Boulder's holiday Parade of Lights. On Christmas night, while the family was out, he entered through a basement window, roamed the house and penned a ransom note, using a legal pad and black Sharpie marker he found near the kitchen.

Around midnight, after the family's return, he slipped upstairs to JonBenet's room and, using a stun gun, temporarily immobilized her. He carried the youngster to the basement and sexually assaulted her while simultaneously choking her, apparently for the thrill, with a garrote—a favored tool of pedophiles, Smit says—fashioned from the handle of one of Patsy Ramsey's paintbrushes.

When JonBenet



Lou Smit



John and Patsy Ramsey

woke, tore the duct tape from her mouth and began screaming. Smit theorizes that the killer panicked and struck her, perhaps with a heavy flashlight. With no time to retrieve his note from upstairs, the killer broke a window and fled. Later, police found a scuff mark from what appeared to be a boot on the nearby wall as well as unidentified boot and palm prints.

From his experience with more than 200 murder and fantasy-stalker cases, Smit believes the killer intended to go to Mexico—that is why he demanded the odd sum of \$118,000, which at the time was close to a million pesos, and some of it in \$20 bills, for easy exchanging. "I believe the Ramseys are innocent," says Smit. "If it's an intruder, it's not the parents, and I think it's that simple." He adds, "The theory doesn't determine the evidence. The evidence should determine the theory."

Those were comforting words to JonBenet's family. **JEFF RAMSEY**, John's brother, told TIME, "We want to do whatever we can to find the killer, hopefully with the help of law-enforcement agencies."

—By Richard Woodbury and Jeffrey Shapiro/Boulder

## FOLLOW-UP

## Air Force Disowns \$32 Million T-3 Planes

THE AIR FORCE LAST WEEK GROUNDED forever the training plane that killed three rookie pilots and their instructors at the Air Force Academy. The service spent \$32 million on 110 of the prop-driven T-3 Fireflies in the early 1990s. Its goal: to put fledgling pilots into acrobatic maneuvers that would screen out pilots who would have later failed at more demanding—and costlier—jets.

But after the six deaths at the academy, from 1995 to 1997, the Air Force "temporarily suspended" the T-3 training program and spent \$6 million trying to fix the plane's engine woes. Air Force headquarters ordered a thorough investigation into the T-3 following questions raised by TIME

in January 1998. Defending the plane after the article ran, **GENERAL LLOYD NEWTON**, chief of Air Force training, pledged to fly one of the planes before another rookie pilot did.

On Oct. 1 Newton told top Air Force officials that the T-3 fixes wouldn't be completed for up to two years, and the brass ordered the program scrapped. "For me, obviously, it's too late," said **LINDA FISCHER**, whose son Dan died in the first T-3 accident. "But it's good to know that no one else at the academy will suffer because of that plane."

—By Mark Thompson/Washington



T-3 Firefly, grounded

## THE DRAWING BOARD



Cartoon by Ted Rall for TIME



## For Left-Handed Caddies Named Gatlin: Payday!

**F**INANCING A HIGHER EDUCATION IS EASY if you are a lefty and attending Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa. Thanks to a southpaw benefactor who felt discriminated against, junior and senior lefties can get up to \$1,000 a year as long as they need help. The scholarship is just one in a long list of odd grants, some tied to a specific school but most for the college of your choice. Which ones do you qualify for?

• **Up to \$9,000** for those who served as caddie at a Golf Association of Philadelphia club

• **\$8,000** for those named Gatlin or Gatling who attend North Carolina State University

• **\$3,000** for the children of licensed harness-racing drivers

• **\$1,000** for grain millers and their dependents

• **\$800-\$1,000** for descendants of worthy Confederate veterans

• **\$250-\$1,000** for those who grew up as "freethinkers"

• **\$300-\$400** for greater New Bedford, Mass., residents whose ancestors were seafarers

• **\$300** for eagle scouts at Johnson & Wales University

• **\$3,333-\$10,000** from David Letterman for telecommunications students at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

• Endowments for those named Hudson or Baxendale who attend Harvard



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With luck, future moongoers may be able to find it among all the other stuff left behind by 14 Soviet and 24 NASA spacecraft:

## Talk About a Full Moon

- Six U.S. flags
- Two golf balls hit by Alan Shepard
- Leather-bound Bible
- Six loads of garbage, mostly tools and bags
- Five nuclear-powered experiments
- Family photo left by Charles Duke
- Rookie astronaut pin left by Alan Bean
- Figurine commemorating astronauts who died on duty
- Two plaques with Nixon's signature
- Vial containing astronomer Eugene Shoemaker's ashes
- Three lunar rovers

## SPECIAL TREATMENT

**NOT PLAYING BALL** The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons, which the Senate rejected last week, isn't the only international treaty that the U.S. has refused to sign or ratify. Here are some others:

TREATY	GENERAL PURPOSE	OTHER HOLDOUTS
Land Mine Ban Treaty	To ban the use, stockpiling, transfer and production of antipersonnel land mines	Cuba, Finland, Turkey, China, Russia
International Criminal Court Treaty	To establish a court with jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes	China, Iraq, Libya, Qatar, Yemen, Israel
Kyoto Protocol	To reduce greenhouse-gas emissions	China, India, Mexico, Brazil
U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child	To protect children from human-rights violations	Somalia
Convention on Biological Diversity	To protect threatened plant and animal species	No developed nation
League of Nations	To maintain peace around the world	Germany, Italy and Japan signed but later withdrew



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JOEL STEIN

## The Emasculation Proclamation

**DON'T WANT SUSAN FALUDI'S PITY. I WANT HER TIGHT little body.** That's the kind of supermasculine attitude that she pines for in her book *Stiffed*, a lamentation on the emasculated American man. As part of my continuing series on books no one outside the media is reading ("In Defense of Irony," *TIME*, Oct. 4, 1999, p. 42), I want to say that almost all the parts of *Stiffed* I read are totally stupid. The main exception is on page 649 in the bibliography ("Joel Stein, 'Porn Goes Mainstream,'" *TIME*, Sept. 7, 1998, p. 54). I recommend buying the book just for that page.

With *Stiffed*, the pity culture comes to its inevitable conclusion: now people are even feeling bad for white men. *Stiffed* argues that as men stopped making things and focused on buying them, they no longer knew how to be men. For this, Faludi blames "the culture," which, the last time I checked, is controlled by white men. But when I called Faludi, she warned against such finger pointing. "We're all complicit in a culture that disfigures people. Most of us participate as consumers," she said. "The blame game is too easy. People should deal with a more complex dynamic than 'Who are we going to put on a wanted poster?' Wanted posters sound good and manly to me."

Faludi had seen *Fight Club* the night before, a film about a home furnishing-obsessed actuary who tries to recover his masculinity by getting a group of buddies together for bare-knuckle fights. She liked the film, noting how the violence spiraled out of control and the main character found redemption

with a woman in a familial relationship. She called the movie "*Stiffed* on speed," so I called Chuck Palahniuk, who wrote the novel *Fight Club*. He was several hundred pages deep into Faludi's book and already calling his story "the fictionalized version of *Stiffed*." There was a lot of love going around.

Although Palahniuk agreed with Faludi's analysis of the problem, he said he thought weekly bareknuckle bouts would be cathartic. "Men need violence. We are very much still animals," he said from his home in Portland, Ore., the least manly city in North America. "We can channel violent feelings into working hard and buying things, but

they keep popping up. We need to acknowledge that they are not bad feelings; they are human feelings," he said. I asked him why, in that case, the fight clubs in his novel caused so many problems. "Because it was a book, it had to go somewhere," he explained. "It needed a climax." It was a manly answer. Palahniuk wrote his book in three months; *Stiffed* took seven years. Men don't ask a lot of questions when they're looking for a climax.

But both Faludi and Palahniuk have it wrong. Pity is over. Oprah's national hugs have been replaced by Jerry Springer's mocking chants for fisticuffs. Men are fine. We don't want to go back to construction work with other men, mostly because construction is hard and screaming "Nice ass" never seems to work. No, we're not men like our fathers: confident, stern and single-handedly supporting a family. But we're happier and more pleasant in our permanent adolescence reading *Maxim* and watching *The Man Show*. It definitely beats going to war.



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### HEAD RUSH



**YOUR KNEES WILL KNOCK TOO** Halloween, that time of pumpkins, candy and little children in adorable costumes. Or maybe not. Is it us, or did the masks get a lot scarier this year?



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## MILESTONES

**ARRESTED.** **GIANCARLO PARRETTI**, 58, fugitive financier; near Orvieto, Italy. Parretti, whose \$1.3 billion takeover of MGM in 1990 and subsequent default on an \$888 million loan nearly destroyed the company, fled the U.S. in 1996 after being convicted of perjury and evidence tampering.

**DIED.** **WILT** ("The Stilt") **CHAMBERLAIN**, 63, 7 ft. 1 in., "gentle giant" of the NBA and the only player to have scored 100 points in a game; of congestive heart failure; in Bel Air, Calif. (see **EULOGY** and **ESSAY**).

**DIED.** **JULIUS NYERERE**, 77, statesman and Tanzania's first President; of leukemia; in London. Nyerere led his country to independence from British rule in 1961, united 120 ethnic groups into one

country, and was its leader for 23 years. He continued until his death to try to unite Africa—most recently by mediating in a civil war in Burundi.

**DIED.** **MILT JACKSON**, 76, jazz vibraphonist and improviser who co-founded the Modern Jazz Quartet; in New York City. Composer of the Quartet's signature *Bags' Groove*, Jackson got his start in Dizzy Gillespie's band and recorded with John Coltrane and Thelonius Monk.

**DIED.** **MORRIS WEST**, 83, novelist whose characters struggled with faith and outlandish plots; in Sydney, Australia. Critics were unimpressed with his books—*The Devil's Advocate* and *The Shoes of the Fisherman* among them—but *West* sold 60 million books worldwide.

**DIED.** **GEORGE FORREST**, 84, Tony Award-winning composer; in Miami. With longtime partner Robert Wright, Forrest wrote songs for the musical *Kismet* and later for *Grand Hotel*.

**EVACUATED.** **JERRI NIELSEN**, 47, U.S. doctor who has been treating herself since July with chemotherapy for a lump in her breast; from the Amundsen-Scott South Pole research station; by the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing.

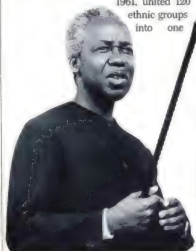


PHOTO: KATHLEEN HUNG

## NUMBERS



**1,021** Number of days between JonBenet Ramsey's murder and the inconclusive end of the grand jury probe

**1,114** Number of days between President Clinton's signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and its rejection by the Senate

**21** Years that lead paint has been banned



**66%** Proportion of American houses that still have lead paint in them

**890,000** Number of children ages one to five who have "elevated" levels of lead in their blood

**1** Lead-paint lawsuit filed by states



**68** Percentage of doctors nationwide who have not exercised in the past year

**5** Number of times doctors are more likely than computer programmers to have fast food for lunch; 57% of doctors eat it three times a week or more

**1** Position of doctors in a survey to determine which profession would most like to see marijuana legalized

Sources: AP, Washington Post, New York Times, AllWeb.com survey of 1,300 professionals

## EULOGY

When I met **WILT CHAMBERLAIN**, he was a sophomore basketball star at Kansas and I was starting out with the Boston Celtics. I could tell we had much in common. Obviously, we were both very tall, which gave us a shared perspective on the world. At a very young age we had each learned certain defense mechanisms to protect ourselves from people who might want us to be something we were not. With Wilt, there was always a lot of bravado on the outside, but he was basically a bright, pretty shy guy with whom I could share a conversation and a good laugh. We could always be ourselves with each other. Once we were going head to head in the



just height. We shared an understanding of the road we had traveled. Playing basketball was never who we were. It was only what we did. I'll miss you, Norman. —**BILL RUSSELL**, Hall of Fame Boston Celtic Center

By Melissa August, Harriet Barovich, Val Castrovo, Matthew Cooper, Tam Gray, Jeffrey Hagar, Daniel Levy, Lisa Lefaro, Dea Philadelphia and Chris Taylor





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# MUTUALLY ASSUR

Eight months after impeachment, the defeat of the test ban proves that the air in Washington is still radioactive. And it's likely to get worse

By RICHARD LACAYO



IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE Senate voted, there was never much of a public debate over the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Then suddenly it was defeated in a vote that stunned not only Washington but just about every other capital. And now, just as suddenly, the Beltway is consumed by concepts like nuclear blasts, mutual assured destruction and radioactive fallout. Of course, not much of that talk revolves around the treaty. Those just happen to be the terms you need to describe the mood between Congress and the President, a climate so poisoned by the impeachment fight that as Bill Clinton moves toward his final year in office, he doesn't only have scorched earth behind him. He has it in front of him.

Ten years from now, this will be seen as the epitome of partisanship, says a White House aide. "The rest of the country has already moved on. Washington, as usual, is the last to figure it out." The struggle over impeachment left Republicans furious that Clinton had escaped them. To make matters worse, he keeps escaping them. Two weeks after he vetoed the C.O.F. tax-cut bill last month, Republicans failed to stop the Democratic version of the HMO-reform bill in the House. And coming soon is a proposed minimum-wage hike that most Republicans oppose but probably can't stop.

However, it has been different on foreign-policy issues, on which Clinton can seem as inattentive as most Americans. Even for initiatives as important as the test-ban treaty, which was supposed to consolidate four decades of bipartisan arms-control efforts, Clinton failed to prepare the ground of public opinion. While the Bush Administration prefaced the Gulf War with months of explanations, NATO's bombing campaign against Serbia this year seemed to come out of nowhere. So on foreign policy, Republicans have sensed an open-

ing to humiliate a President they could not topple, even if that means discarding the tattered remains of the bipartisan consensus on foreign affairs. Last year, when Clinton ordered the bombing of Iraq on the eve of his impeachment, Senate majority leader Trent Lott was unafraid to issue a statement questioning the timing of the attack. In April, House Republicans defeated by a tie vote a measure in support of the NATO campaign against Serbia.

So it was no wonder that the Senate's perfunctory debate on the test-ban treaty included a moment in which Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, offered an imitation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair in conversation with Clinton and signing off with "give Monica my regards." Washington may be the one place in America where people still talk about Lewinsky. It was also no wonder that Clinton was in a genuinely vengeful mood after the vote when he accused Republicans of "reckless partisanship."

Whatever it means for America's status abroad, the bitter collision over the test ban is a bad omen for the future of peaceful co-existence between the President and Congress. Next up is the contest over the budget. Though Congress may finish all 13 appropriations



**“It was not [a vote] about politics. It was about the substance of the treaty.”**

—TRENT LOTT



# ED DESTRUCTION

bills by the end of this week, Clinton could veto as many as five of them, beginning a pitched fight that may decide the 2000 election. And don't expect him to position himself as a centrist, the role he played in the balanced-budget agreement two years ago and on welfare reform in 1996.

For the runup to 2000, Democratic leaders like Tom Daschle in the Senate and Dick Gephardt in the House want to pick fights with the Republicans. A lot of Washington believes that Clinton, who owes them for standing by him during impeachment, is now disposed to stand by them in return. In his press conference last week, however, Clinton insisted that there was simply no reasonable leadership figure to deal with anymore on the other side.

Either way, there won't be much braking from the White House when congressional Democrats hit Republicans for starving schools and the environment or for being too beholden to the party's pro-life wing, which likes to add antiabortion riders to spending bills wherever it can. And with Lott disinclined to play dealmaker, Republicans will be trying hard to frame the budget debate to their advantage by claiming that Democratic spending proposals will require draining money from the Social Security trust fund. Vulnerable congressional Democrats like Earl Pomeroy in North Dakota and Debbie Stabenow in Michigan have already been hit in their home districts by Republican TV spots accusing them of just that.

Next, Republicans may try to force votes on specific Clinton spending proposals, leaving Democrats vulnerable to ads stating that they supported, say, money to

protect the striped bass over money for retirees. "Whatever tear-jerking program they can come up with, they'll have to justify raiding Social Security," says a G.O.P. Senate leadership aide. "That just won't work."

Something else that may not work is compromise. One of the things that make the system operate is personal contact between the President and congressional leaders, especially those that come from different parties. But Clinton and Lott have had the kind of working relationship that Mike Tyson had with Evander Holyfield. Before Clinton phoned Lott last week to urge him to allow the test-ban treaty to be withdrawn without a vote—a call that Republicans complain came just 90 minutes before the vote was scheduled—the two men had not spoken since July. Lott says that if Clinton had called a week earlier, it could have been withdrawn.

But Lott is in no mood to play nice. He knows that Democrats in Congress set the debacle in motion by pushing all summer for a vote on the treaty, fully expecting that the Republicans would never oblige. When Lott decided to call their bluff, Democrats had no time to turn the sizable but less than urgent public sentiment in favor of the treaty—it ran as high as 80% in some polls—into an irresistible public demand that would force more Republican Senators to vote with the Democrats. In the end just four Republicans defected. Lott also knew that he had to placate his conservative wing, still angry over his willingness two years ago to bring to the Senate floor the treaty banning chemical weapons.

In a final effort, Daschle and Lott agreed that the test-ban treaty could be withdrawn if Democrats promised, as Republicans demanded, not to introduce it again during Clinton's presidency except under "extraordinary circumstances." Republicans, who feel they always lose when they cut a deal with Clinton, wouldn't go for that one. As White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said, "They act as if they're afraid even to get in the same room with us because they'll get taken." In the year to come they won't be taking much. Or giving it. —Reported by Jay Byrnes and John F. Dickerson/Washington



**“Never before has a serious treaty... been handled in such a reckless and partisan way.”**

—BILL CLINTON



# Is It Trick or Treaty?

The critics have blasted the Senate for rejecting a nuclear test-ban pact. Big deal

By JOHN CLOUD



YOU WOULD THINK THE SENATE had voted to launch a nuclear weapon. The foreign policy establishment reacted with horror last week when the Senate rejected the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which would ban nuclear tests. Editors were aghast at the "parochial Senators" (the *New York Times*) who were willing to pay "a risky price ... for political points" (the *Los Angeles Times*). Headlines blared comparisons to the U.S. repudiation of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 and 1920, an isolationist mistake that arguably helped lead to World War II.

Allies were similarly upset. Britain's government was "deeply disappointed," the Japanese Foreign Minister "extremely concerned." To be sure, there was some justification for the anxiety. It's difficult to dissuade India and Pakistan from testing nukes in each other's backyards if the U.S. won't promise to end testing. "There is a collective sigh of relief in Indian government circles," says Bharat Karnad of the Center for Policy Research in New Delhi. "Jesse Helms [who, as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, led the opposition] has taken India off the hook."

The Senate's action seemed almost cavalier. Debate over the treaty was short and, at times, crassly partisan. (Even C.O.P. arms-control expert Brent Scowcroft called it "pathetic.") And the vote came just a day

after relations between India and Pakistan were further soured by the Islamabad coup.

The implications go beyond the subcontinent. "The perception more broadly [is] that we don't know what we're doing," says Bush Administration CIA chief Robert Gates, who opposed the treaty as written but—like many Senators, including many Republicans—favored a delay of the vote over a wholesale rejection. "When you're the only superpower, that's a very dangerous situation to be in, when people around the world ... have not got a clue what you're going to do next."

The treaty's failure could imperil the fate of other pacts. Says William Walker, professor of international relations at St. Andrews University: "If the central world power begins to question the validity of [such] treaties, everything shakes up." It also undermines U.S. credibility in diplomatic circles, leaving nations wondering how much faith they can put in the pledges of a President who pushed for—but couldn't get—treaty approval.

But if passage of the treaty would have been a symbol of the U.S.'s continued moral leader-

ship in a hazardous world, it's important not to overstate the impact of its defeat. "This thing wasn't going to affect rogue states," a U.S. Navy officer says, "or even nations that pretend to comply." It's a little naive to think a militaristic outsider like North Korea would abandon its mighty efforts to develop nuclear weapons simply because the Senate voted a certain way.

What's more, you don't have to be a Clinton hater to believe there are problems with how the test ban was constructed in the first place. For one thing, it had no cutoff date. Even some former Clinton Administration officials fear there is no way to ensure the effectiveness of U.S. weapons forever without testing them occasionally. A computer program that would monitor weapons in lieu of testing isn't ready, though treaty supporters argue that future Presidents could have pulled out of the treaty if the technology proved faulty.

Another valid point cited by opponents is that compliance with the test ban couldn't be guaranteed. Iraq was deemed to be in compliance with another accord, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, until the Gulf War revealed Baghdad's atomic program.

But saying there were reasons to fault the treaty isn't the same as saying it should have failed outright. In the future, another President—and a new Senate—may be able to dust off the treaty and push it along (it won't take effect until all 44 nuclear-capable states ratify it). But for now, the Clinton Administration must awkwardly try to convince the world that the U.S. will honor the terms of an agreement it just spurned—and hope that others will follow.

—Reported by Massimo Calabresi and Mark Thompson/Washington and Helen Gibson/London

## THE TREATY

It needs to be ratified by the 44 nuclear-capable states. Twenty-six have ratified, 15 have signed but not ratified, and **three** haven't even signed

## Countries that ratified ...

Argentina	Bulgaria	Italy	Poland
Australia	Canada	Japan	Romania
Austria	Finland	Mexico	Slovakia
Belgium	France	Netherlands	S. Africa
Brazil	Germany	Norway	S. Korea
Britain	Hungary	Peru	Spain
			Sweden
			Switzerland

## ... and ones that haven't

Algeria	Egypt	Ukraine
Bangladesh	Indonesia	U.S.
Chile	Iran	Vietnam
China	Israel	India
Colombia	Russia	N. Korea
Congo	Turkey	Pakistan

## Global Nuclear Tests: 1945-present

■ Denotes highest number for decade

TIME Chart  
Source: Arms  
Transfer Database



## TOTAL TESTS

FRANCE	210
Britain	45
China	45
India	3
Pakistan	2

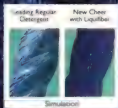
U.S.S.R.	715
U.S.	1,030



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"The stress load was building," adds Kathleen.

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lot of experience. She's just what we needed."

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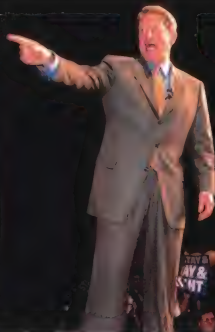
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# THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

Reeling in Big Labor and improvising well, Gore has a big week. Finally. But can it last?

By ERIC POOLEY SEATTLE



IT WAS ABOUT TIME AL GORE caught a break. For months his presidential campaign has seen nothing but bad luck and trouble, much of it brought on by the Vice President himself. He ignored his only Democratic rival until Bill Bradley's minivan pulled up right alongside Air Force Two. He turned his campaign into a jobs program for consultants and seemed congenitally unable to connect with voters. Things were so dismal for so long, in fact, that after Gore fired his pollster, slashed his staff, declared himself the underdog and moved his headquarters to Nashville, Tenn., it was probably inevitable that his luck would change, at least for a little while.

But let's not get carried away with comeback talk. Let's just say Gore finally had a good week.

If a high point came in Los Angeles on Wednesday, when Gore landed the endorsement of the 13 million-member AFL-CIO—a labor machine that can give his campaign soft money, vote-pulling muscle and 200 organizers in Iowa alone—it wasn't the only one. That night in Seattle, after the Senate shot down the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Gore tried to build momentum by staying up late to write, edit and star in a TV spot in which he pledged that his first act as President would be to send the treaty back to the Senate. That may not get voters dancing in the streets of Nashua, N.H., but at least it proved he was capable of making a spontaneous move. "It was probably the least calculated moment of the campaign," says an adviser. Gore didn't even have time to poll, though he knew in his bones that the no-

nukes message would play well among liberals leaning toward Bradley. Flying from Seattle to Washington on Thursday, Gore told reporters how he had written the spot on hotel stationery; he even handed out copies of a penciled-up draft. He was pleased to have done something brave and impulsive. On Friday he was still being that way. He told the Washington Post he was thinking about flying solo—asking Bill Clinton to stand aside and let him win or lose by himself.

Gore, who can seem phony even when he's totally sincere, has always tried to make up with hard work what he lacks in instinct and inspiration. Right now he's working so feverishly to connect that he makes you want to give him a hug. "I don't want to tell you what's on my mind," he says constantly. "I want to show you what's in my heart"—and you get the idea he'd like to rip the thing clean out of his breast, just to prove he has one. What's fascinating is that this all shows signs of working. He sometimes manages to find what performers call the Zone—

the elusive place where everything they try works. In Seattle an audience of Boeing aerospace machinists went wild for Gore—repeat, went wild for Gore. People laughed at his jokes. They nodded at his confession that after Vietnam and Watergate, "I was as disillusioned as anyone you've ever met." They cheered when he promised he would "stay and fight" for them. And they were mindful that unlike Bradley, he supports

**UP OFF THE MAT** At the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner in Iowa, Gore launches his offensive building the F-22 Raptor jet fighter, a program that helps keep Boeing humming.

Though two of the AFL-CIO's biggest unions, the Teamsters and United Auto Workers, withheld their endorsements last week in hopes of extracting trade protections from the Clinton Administration, the good news for Gore is that he managed to reel in the AFL without making those kinds of concessions. In effect he pulled a Bradley, telling unions they should trust him because of what he is, not what he will do. He glossed over the knottiest issue facing labor: the way free trade exports American jobs and suppresses American wages. And though free traders have proposals for dealing with the problem, Gore didn't mention them. Apart from a promise to negotiate labor and environmental agreements as part of future trade pacts, not as side deals, he offered platitudes about protecting the right to organize and boosting the minimum wage—no-brainers

for any Democrat. In fact, nothing Gore said in L.A. about how he'd "stay and fight for working people" would have raised an eyebrow the next day in Washington, when he told the free-trade-loving members of the Democratic Leadership Council that he would stay and fight for centrism. Gore has been doing plenty of staying and fighting this month. His new slogan, of course, is designed to contrast him with Bradley.



**FRONT RUNNER** Bill Bradley is behaving like the man to beat



who left the Senate during the Gingrich revolution. Gore's attacks on Bradley reveal something he's long been missing: a coherent strategy, a chance to pull himself off the mat.

Gore first drew blood with "stay and fight" two weeks ago, when he and Bradley made a joint appearance in Iowa. Bradley spoke first, bemoaning the state of politics and wondering why he and Gore couldn't be more like home-run rivals Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, "pushing [each other] to be the best we could be." When it was Gore's turn he said, "I listened carefully to what you had to say about making this campaign a different kind of experience. I really agree." He proposed a debate a week, each devoted to a different issue. "What about it, Bill? If the answer is yes, stand up."

Bradley didn't and hasn't. Ever since, Gore has been filching Bradley rhetoric, talking about "having a different kind of campaign," styling himself the high-minded statesman and Bradley the conventional pol. To anyone paying attention, it's pretty transparent. For 10 months Gore wouldn't come within 100 miles of Bradley; now that Bradley leads in New Hampshire and has more money in the bank than Gore, the Vice President wants weekly debates to "elevate our democracy." Even Gore's advisers admit the play: "Sure it's tactical," says one, "but it's also good for the country." The danger for Bradley is that his counter-tactics look no nobler than Gore's tactics. If Bradley really wants to improve the process, why not just say yes to Gore? Certainly Gore watchers would enjoy seeing a less rehearsed Vice President; in 1996 he was so obsessed with debate prep that he made sure the temperature in his practice room matched the temperature in the debate hall. So far, Bradley has agreed to one debate this year, a televised town-hall forum to take place Oct. 27 in New Hampshire. But the pressure is on, and he'll soon agree to more.

Which leaves Gore supporters wondering if their man can build on his week. Those who doubt his fortitude should hear Seattle mountaineer Jim Frush tell how Gore and his son Albert III, 16, climbed Mount Rainier last August. With ice picks and crampons, ropes and harnesses, they began the final grueling ascent at 2 a.m., in white-out conditions, hail and high winds. They summited six hours later. Gore, who hasn't told that story publicly, has been closing his speeches with a generic bit about standing on the summit—"You can see a long way, but you can't see every day that will dawn." But he chose the wrong metaphor. He'd better hope the symbol of his campaign turns out to be that death-defying climb. ■

## For McCain, Flak Becomes Fuel

IT WAS A FULL-SCALE PERSONAL ATTACK. BEHIND THE SCENES LAST WEEK, CONGRESSIONAL Republicans were zipping faxes to each other labeling Senator John McCain a hypocrite: here he was, they said, championing campaign-finance reform while taking money from those with business before the Commerce Committee he chairs. And they had the list to prove it! Software companies, cable companies, phone companies, airlines! Rivals also whispered darkly that McCain has an uncontrollable temper. Message: too loco to be President. McCain defended himself against the hypocrisy charge—"Who is corrupted by this system? All of us are corrupted," he told his colleagues—and he admitted being a member of Hotheads Anonymous. But these days, he insists, "I just keep smiling. I don't want people to think they can get a reaction out of me."

He has reason to smile. What doesn't play in Washington does in New Hampshire. Polls show that McCain's support in that state has jumped 10 points in the past month, leaving him with 21% of likely Republican primary voters, compared with 40% for George W. Bush. New Hampshire has a history of scarring front runners who lope into the state with a lead. Now that Steve Forbes and Elizabeth Dole have receded in state surveys, McCain is the only challenger who appears to have traction. He has also won endorsements from several state representa-

tives and the beloved former Senator Warren Rudman.

It's not just his anti-Washington bravado that accounts for McCain's gain in a state of proudly ornery voters. The former Navy pilot and prisoner of war has also tried to win the ground game by visiting the state 28 times since he started running and presiding at 80 town hall meetings. What's more, he has plans to milk the success of his autobiography, which has remained on the best seller list since its release a month ago. At the end of October, sources tell TIME, McCain will launch television ads in New Hampshire that recapitulate his war story: "Courage and character" is the theme, says campaign manager Rick Davis.

**Long Days on the Trail** Twenty-eight visits to New Hampshire have started to pay off

ulate his war story: "Courage and character" is the theme, says campaign manager Rick Davis.

In Austin, Texas, the Bush team is starting to notice. "He is the one we worry most about," says a Granite State adviser to the campaign. That used to be the position occupied by Forbes, but the multimillionaire publisher has not managed in over a year to close his nearly 20-point deficit with Bush in the key state of Iowa. The Texas Governor's campaign staff is worried that any damage Forbes may do through his planned negative ads will not help Forbes, but will turn voters to McCain. Perhaps feeling the pressure, Bush announced last week that he would participate in a December debate in New Hampshire after previously saying he would not debate at all until the new year.

The ascending McCain, whom New Hampshire-ites often compare with Democratic challenger Bill Bradley, can't yet match his party's front runner in the organization and money needed to go the distance. In the coming weeks, say campaign aides, McCain will announce organizations in Western states that they think will show he has the longevity to take his run beyond its strongholds of New Hampshire and South Carolina. Also like Bradley, McCain will have to do it without his party's apparatus, which he spent so much time infuriating last week. But that "only helps him up here," says New Hampshire elder Rudman. "I wish that happened every week."

—By John F. Dickerson. With reporting by James Carney/Washington



PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD





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# THE GOOD NEWS COUP?

Pakistanis exult over the fall of Sharif. But will military rule make the volatile subcontinent any safer?

By ROMESH RATNESAR

**M**ILITARY COUPS USED TO BE messy affairs, rife with panic and barricades and bloodshed. After the overthrow of the democratically elected government in Pakistan last week, there was cheering. In the span of 48 hours, army chief General Pervez Musharraf detained Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, sacked the Cabinet, suspended Parliament and the constitution, and imposed virtual martial law. Yet most Pakistanis barely shrugged. Shops remained open. Telephone service was restored. Children went to school. In Sharif's hometown of Lahore, people danced in the streets and distributed candies to celebrate the coup. "We don't want democracy," said Mohammed Tariq, 22, a taxi driver in the capital, Islamabad. "We just want law and order and stable prices."

As the country fell under total army rule late last week, few Pakistanis regretted the snuffing out of democracy. Militant Islamists tied to Afghanistan's Taliban government hailed the downfall of Sharif, who had suddenly clamped down on fundamentalist groups inside Pakistan following a three-week spasm of sectarian violence that left 40 dead. "There should be no elections in Pakistan—there should be a Taliban-like system in Pakistan," said the chief of the Harkatul Mujahideen, a militant group whose training centers were attacked by U.S. cruise missiles last year. Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, twice sacked for alleged corruption, praised the junta for removing Sharif and told *TIME* she might return from exile in London once army rule is lifted. "I'd like to go back," she said, "but not to add to the commotion."

The exuberance of Pakistanis was understandable. Their country is drowning in \$32 billion of foreign debt, and Sharif had behaved like a petty tyrant. "People were so fed up," said former President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari. "They thought a weight had been taken off them."

Even in Western capitals, the usual jitters were tempered by widespread relief that Sharif was gone. Although U.S. Ambassador William Milam met with Musharraf to inform him of Washington's "profound regret about the military takeover," the U.S. was not all that upset by last week's events. The Asian subcontinent has been a source of heightened anxiety for the U.S. since the spring of 1998, when India tested nuclear devices and Pakistan responded with its own nuclear tests. The two countries' dispute over the territory of Kashmir brought them to the brink of all-out war this year. The Administration prodded Sharif to scale back his army's adventurism in Kashmir and exacted his cooperation in cracking down on terrorist training cells in Afghanistan. But Washington had come to believe that Sharif was digging his own grave and dragging his country into it. "Things were basically falling apart," says former CIA chief Robert Gates. "It had been a steady, slow, downward spiral."

Still, the coup does not solve the various problems that make the region one of the most dangerous places on earth. While



Musharraf is a liberal Muslim and most of the army's top brass are moderate, U.S. analysts say. Fundamentalists have made inroads in the lower ranks of the military. A rise in fundamentalism under the new regime could set off another wave of sectarian killings and would unnervingly India, which responded warily to the coup. Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee was expected to resume peace talks with Sharif in November, but the coup has made that unlikely. Last week Indian forces were on high alert, though no one anticipates an outbreak of hostilities. Given the Pakistani army's past misconceptions about Indian strategic thinking, the risk of war is ever a concern, as is the safety of the rivals' nukes. "Nobody has a clue what kind of procedures they have devised to be able to ensure the safety and protection of these [weapons]," says Gates.





## Why a coup in Pakistan ...

Islamabad remains at odds with New Delhi over Kashmir yet is a buffer against Afghan zealotry



**In** General Pervez Musharraf, army chief, has shut down Parliament and declared himself chief executive of Pakistan



**Out** Nawaz Sharif, left, and intelligence chief Khwaja Ziauddin, the man pegged as Musharraf's successor

### ■ THE FACE-OFF

Pakistan 587,000 troops; \$3.2 billion defense budget; nuclear devices: 25\*

India 1.2 million troops; \$9.9 billion defense budget; nuclear devices: 60\*  
\*estimated



## ... has the U.S. concerned

**1 NUCLEAR WEAPONS**  
With the coup, there is no longer any pretense of a civilian check on military control of the country's arsenal

**2 KASHMIR** The huge territory has been contested by India and Pakistan since 1947 and has led to two wars

**3 MILITANTS** U.S. sources say Islamic revolutionary elements are growing in strength among the army's lower ranks

Pakistan is used to army rule. The military has run Pakistan for 25 of the 52 years since the birth of the nation. But an early period of military rule ended disastrously with civil war, armed confrontation with India, and the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. And the legacy of the last military strongman, Zia ul-Haq, who was killed in a 1988 plane crash, is the country's so far unviable democracy. There had been little longing for the military's return to politics, but the ineptitude of Sharif's government and his self-serving brand of management made a confrontation with the military—still the country's strongest institution—hard to avoid. Relations with Musharraf were clearly sour by July. After meeting with Clinton, Sharif ordered the military to retreat from the Indian side of Kashmir. The announcement infuriated army commanders. In a last grasp

for control, Sharif decided to fire Musharraf last week and replace him with Khwaja Ziauddin, head of Pakistani intelligence.

But Musharraf had planned for just such a move. Within two hours of the announcement of his dismissal, troops loyal to the general seized Pakistan's TV headquarters and a convoy of army trucks carrying soldiers pulled up to the Prime Minister's mansion, where they took Sharif and Ziauddin into custody. Musharraf was on a plane from Sri Lanka bound for Karachi. Sharif loyalists told the pilot to divert the plane to the town of Nawabshah, where Sharif had reportedly arranged to have Musharraf arrested. When the plane got stuck in a holding pattern, Musharraf entered the cockpit and ordered the pilot to land in Karachi. When it touched down, the aircraft had five minutes' worth of fuel left.

Musharraf does not fit the profile of a

strongman. He is known as a quiet, principled consensus builder who has modest political ambitions. His son lives in the U.S. and reportedly works as an actuary. In his free time, Musharraf reads the speeches of Abraham Lincoln. "I don't think he will be suspicious of the U.S.," says Bhutto. And yet hopes that he would quickly cobble together an interim civilian government seemed to be dashed when he imposed martial law. Says a senior White House official: "We'll have to see how long Musharraf wants to hold on to power and what he wants to do with it." If Musharraf dawdles too long, the cheering in Pakistan may stop sooner than he thinks.

—Reported by Hannah Bloch, Michael Fathers and Ghulam Hassan/Islamabad, Maseeh Rahman/New Delhi, Massimo Calabresi/Washington and William Dowell/New York



# MATTEL: SOME (RE)ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

The big toymakers have a basic problem—they don't bother to come up with new toys anymore

By KARL TARO GREENFELD

**W**ALK AROUND THE AIRY ORANGE-and-yellow-hued loft of Rumpus Toys in New York City. Stick your hand down the throat of a plush Gus Gutz and remove his stuffed organs. Toy companies are supposed to be like this—creative places where adults dream up wacky stuff for kids. "I make the kinds of toys I love to play with," explains the 29-year-old founder, Laurence Schwarz, standing next to a showroom of Harry Hairballs, a cat whose stomach contains fish bones, slippers and hair balls. "We don't put this stuff through focus groups or watch kids play with it behind glass. This is from the guts, literally."

Even if Rumpus' toy line strikes adults as gross, it has struck a chord with children, driving revenues from \$1 million in 1997 to an estimated \$15 million this year. More important, Rumpus represents the kind of fun-first, marketing-second approach to toymaking that has become alien to America's corporate giants Mattel and Hasbro, which together control about 30% of the toy business. The corporations instead scheme to recoup their nine-figure licensing fees for movie characters by filling the pipeline with action figures.

Executives at Mattel, for example, can't remember the last hit toy the \$4.8 billion company incubated without a movie licensing tie-in or an idea purchased from a smaller company. The days when the firm, based in El Segundo, Calif., was capable of organically growing a brand from the roots up, building Barbie or Hot Wheels into multibillion-dollar annual businesses, seem long gone.

For the past decade, the company, along with rival Hasbro, has been relying on acquisitions for sales growth. Last year Mattel purchased Learning Co., a maker of educational software with sales of \$850 million, for \$3.8 billion, and Pleasant Co., maker of American Girl, for \$700 million. Not to be outdone, Hasbro picked up Galoob, maker of Star Wars figurines, and Micro Machines for \$220 million, Furby founder Tiger Electronics for an additional \$335 million and Pokémon licensee Wizards of the Coast for \$325 million. When that becomes your business—buying ideas and then marketing the hell out of them—you had better be good at all the gritty, very adult details of analyzing a potential acquisition's balance sheet.

Lately that strategy has begun to look flawed for Mattel, which announced that its third-quarter earnings would be 55% lower than its projected \$280 million, largely because

of an acquisition gone wrong. Investors bolted, and the stock dropped to \$11.69 a share from its November high of \$40.50. Analysts rushed to downgrade the company as it became apparent that CEO Jill Barad, 48, the marketer who remade the Barbie line into one of toyland's most formidable franchises, was looking less capable when it came to operational details.

The immediate problem was \$100 million in inventory, which Mattel thought had been sold, that mysteriously reappeared on the books at Learning Co. Oops. That turned an expected \$50 million profit at the newly acquired division into a loss of \$50 million to \$100 million.

Analysts were grumbling that Mattel paid too much for Learning Co. in an effort to make up for shortfalls elsewhere in the company. The 40-year-old Barbie franchise was finally showing its age. Sales of the doll fell 14% last year. That's critical because Barbie is Mattel's principal breadwinner, accounting for 40% of the company's profits. Worse, Barad had assured investors, already wary of the CEO's famously optimistic projections, that Learning Co.'s educational software would be leverageable throughout the company, adding a much needed high-technology luster to the traditional toy brands. The educational-toy market has been hot for a couple of years, she reasoned, and Mattel would now be at the forefront. After all, she assured investors, hadn't Mattel snapped up the hit toy licenses for Disney's Bounce Around Tiger and Tyco's Tickle Me Elmo that had driven earnings in recent years?

But the Learning Co. deal has undermined Mattel's game plan. "I don't think Mattel's management really had any idea of what the problems were or how deep they were," says Sean McGowan, analyst at Gerard Klauer Mattison. "There is not a lot of confidence that this is the end of the story." Barad has frustrated analysts and fund managers by refusing to discuss what went wrong and by maintaining upbeat earnings forecasts that seem unattainable considering Mattel's flat sales in the first half of this year. (She would not talk to TIME for this story.)

Her defenders say it's been a tough few years in toyland. Hasbro and retailer Toys "R" Us have also been struggling against shifts in preferences, in the way kids play with toys and in demographics. Americans are having fewer children, leaving toy sales flat for the past two years at \$21 billion annually. The only sector that has been thriving is that of Internet retailers like eToys, which has captured more than 50% of the \$53 million online market.







Part of the industry's problem may be that many kids are simply too busy for toys. Take seven-year-old Arielle Beer of Atlanta. She has a tennis lesson on Monday and Thursday, Hebrew school on Tuesday and Saturday, karate on Wednesday and a flute lesson on Friday. There are 40 minutes nightly for homework and her favorite TV show, *Party of Five*. Does she wish she had more time to play with toys? "Yes, no... I don't know," she answers Clintonesquely. Increasingly, kids prefer computer and video games, which in the past two years have doubled in sales, to \$6.2 billion. "Something's changed," says Eric Johnson, professor of management at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business. "Kids are growing up faster. They want toys for a shorter length of time. The traditional toys are getting nibbled at from all directions by sporting goods and high tech. And nobody ever knows where the next hit toy is going to come from."

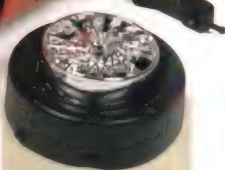
That's bad news in an industry that relies on hits to get kids and parents into the stores. This year, for example, Hasbro and retailers were betting on products licensed from Star

Wars' prequel *Phantom Menace* to drive sales into the crucial fourth quarter, which accounts for half of all toy sales. However, the force has not been with the Star Wars line. "It was very strong in May and June, during the movie's release," says Leslie Rauch, a senior buyer for Target stores. "But since then, it's become nothing more than a boy's action figure." Schwarz of Rumpus Toys says the response from the big toy companies will be to spend millions more dollars on licensed merchandise tied to movies. "That way, if they fail, no one can blame them for making a mistake."

But look at some of the hit toys of the past few years—Super Soakers, Air Hogs, Beanie Babies, Furby, even Gus Gutz. They came from small companies with no movie licensing tie-ins. That's bad news for Mattel's Barad. She needs a hot toy this holiday season more than any six-year-old does.

Otherwise, the only thing Barad may get for Christmas is a fired. —*WJH*

reporting by William Dowell/New York and Greg Fulton/Atlanta



## Not So Much Fun

Toy stocks have taken a tumble, except for Internet play eToys





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**Berkshire Hathaway weekly closings**

Dec. 31, 1998  
**\$70,000**

March 12, 1999  
**\$81,100**

Oct. 15, 1999  
**\$57,000**

**BEATING THE MARKET—DOWN**

With longtime favorites, including Gillette and Coke, taking a drubbing, and trouble brewing in the insurance business, Berkshire Hathaway shares have hit their worst slide in a decade, losing 19% of their value this year



# Berkshire's Buffett-ing

The stock has dropped—to \$57,000. Time to buy?

By DANIEL KADLEC

**T**HIS MIGHT BE THE YEAR THAT THE REST of us got smarter than Warren Buffett. America's best-known investing whiz runs Berkshire Hathaway, pals around with Bill Gates and famously shuns tech stocks. Yet tech stocks, the day traders' favorite food, have sustained the market, while Berkshire's A-class stock is down 19% and headed for its first losing year since 1990. By the end of last week, when stocks in general were bruised by fears of inflation and mixed earnings reports, the company had lost \$20 billion of market value.

A superstar stock picker, Buffett has taken Berkshire's shareholders for an amazing ride, largely on the backs of stocks like Gillette, Coca-Cola and Disney. If you had put \$10,000 in Berkshire when Buffett bought control in 1965, it would be worth \$51 million today—literally 100 times the gain of the Standard & Poor's 500. Buffett's investment success has long overwhelmed Berkshire's other side, which owns and operates companies in aviation, furniture, insurance and fast food. Profits from those



**STILL SMILING** Buffett's near term problems may set him up for long-term gains

businesses traditionally haven't helped in evaluating Berkshire because investment gains have meant so much more.

That's still the case. But a shift is under way, one that has highlighted Berkshire's operating performance, and is forcing Wall Street to change the way it looks at the stock. Buffett has been buying more whole companies than company shares in recent years. Just last week he signed a deal to buy all of Jordan's Furniture, a New England retailer with \$250 million in annual sales. His biggest deals, though, have been in insurance, starting with auto insurer Geico in 1996 and then the \$22 billion acquisition of reinsurer General Re at the end of 1997. (Insurance compa-

nies need to lay off risk, hence reinsurance companies.)

In the process, Buffett has rebalanced Berkshire in startling fashion. The company's vaunted stock portfolio accounts for just 33% of Berkshire's total assets. As recently as 1995, the stocks accounted for a whopping 76% of assets. "To keep thinking of Berkshire as a big stock fund is absurd," asserts Alice Schroeder, an insurance analyst at PaineWebber. She began covering the company this year, underscoring

Berkshire's insurance bent.

This shift has come at a price. Berkshire's famous five-digit stock quote finished last week at \$57,000 for the A shares. That's way down from the March 12 high of \$81,100, and some analysts are calling it a bargain. From high to low, the stock fell 33% last summer, its steepest decline in a decade. Seldom has Buffett put such a hurt on his shareholders. Doing so now, while the economy sparkles and the stock market remains up for the year, is especially vexing.

Has the "Oracle of Omaha" lost it? Please. He suffers from technophobia and has thus missed out on a big part of what's been driving the stock market. Meanwhile, those big-brand names he loves have been laggards. But it's hard to make the case that in the very long term—and Buffett believes in holding for life—stocks like Gillette and Coke won't come back in a big way.

Buffett's other big problem at the moment is weak operating results on the insurance front. But this too will probably correct itself. Geico isn't putting up big numbers because it's spending like mad to advertise and steal market share. General Re is in a part of the business that's now in a down cycle. When these trends turn, Berkshire figures to emerge as the best-capitalized insurance company in a world with increasing insurance needs.

Last year the industry's losses, as a result of natural disasters, hit \$92 billion—53% higher than any previous year. Whether you believe in global warming or not, disasters are getting bigger and losses greater all the time. Berkshire's monstrous capital base of \$57 billion is nearly double the company's nearest competitor and enables it to take more near term risk and benefit from long-term cycles that produce healthy returns. Buffett is taking lumps now to transform his company. So gloat while you can. You may not get the opportunity next year. ■





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# It's Stockholm Calling. Oslo Too

The honors go to the discoverer of protein "ZIP codes," a laser photographer, two particle theorists, the father of the euro and death-defying doctors

THE HUMAN CELL IS A MARVEL, NOT JUST OF engineering but also of traffic control. Proteins are constantly shuttling within it to build and repair substructures, process energy and carry out the myriad functions that keep this basic unit of life alive.

Until the 1970s, though, it was unclear how the proteins knew where to go. Guenter Blobel, a German-born cell and molecular biologist at New York City's Rockefeller University, figured it out—and for solving that mystery, the 63-year-old naturalized American last week won the 1999 Nobel Prize in Medicine.



## MEDICINE

■ **WHO WON** German-born Guenter Blobel of Rockefeller University

■ **FOR WHAT** Deciphering the secret "ZIP codes" proteins use to find their way around all living cells

■ **HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT ME** Could someday help lead to treatments for Alzheimer's, cancer and other diseases

and his team have shown that signal peptides are found in just about all plants and animals.

The discovery has a multitude of practical implications. Cystic fibrosis, for example, and some forms of kidney disease are caused by the failure of key proteins to get where they ought to be. Understanding the details of such failures could probably lead to powerful treatments. Indeed, Blobel's research has already helped scientists use tiny cellular "factories" to mass-produce proteins such as erythropoietin, which stimulates red-blood-cell production. A deeper understanding of cellular machinery, which Blobel continues to pursue, could eventually show how cells are damaged in Alzheimer's disease, cancer and infections.

A lover of architecture who witnessed the fire bombing of Dresden as a boy during World War II, Blobel is donating much of his \$960,000 in prize money to the restoration of a church and a synagogue in that city and of a historic building in Furbine, Italy.

—By Michael D. Lamonick



LAUREATE:  
Biologist  
Blobel at  
Rockefeller  
University



## CHEMISTRY

■ **WHO WON** Egyptian Ahmed Zewail of the California Institute of Technology

■ **FOR WHAT** Using lasers to take movies of chemical reactions at 1 quadrillion frames per sec., revealing key unseen details

■ **HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT ME** Could lead to important developments in industrial chemistry and drug making



## PHYSICS

■ **WHO WON** Dutch researchers Gerard 't Hooft, right, of the University of Utrecht, and Martinus Veltman, formerly of Michigan

■ **FOR WHAT** Developing new ways to calculate and predict how subatomic particles will behave

■ **HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT ME** It won't, except to inspire awe at nature's ways



## ECONOMICS

■ **WHO WON** Canadian-born Robert Mundell of Columbia University

■ **FOR WHAT** Showing how international capital flows affect economic strategy, thus anticipating the euro

■ **HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT ME** Could help governments fine-tune economic policies to take account of events elsewhere



## PEACE

■ **WHO WON** The international aid organization Doctors Without Borders

■ **FOR WHAT** Nearly three decades of bringing medical help to victims of famine, war and genocide

■ **HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT ME** By raising the world's overall compassion level and calling constant attention to human rights





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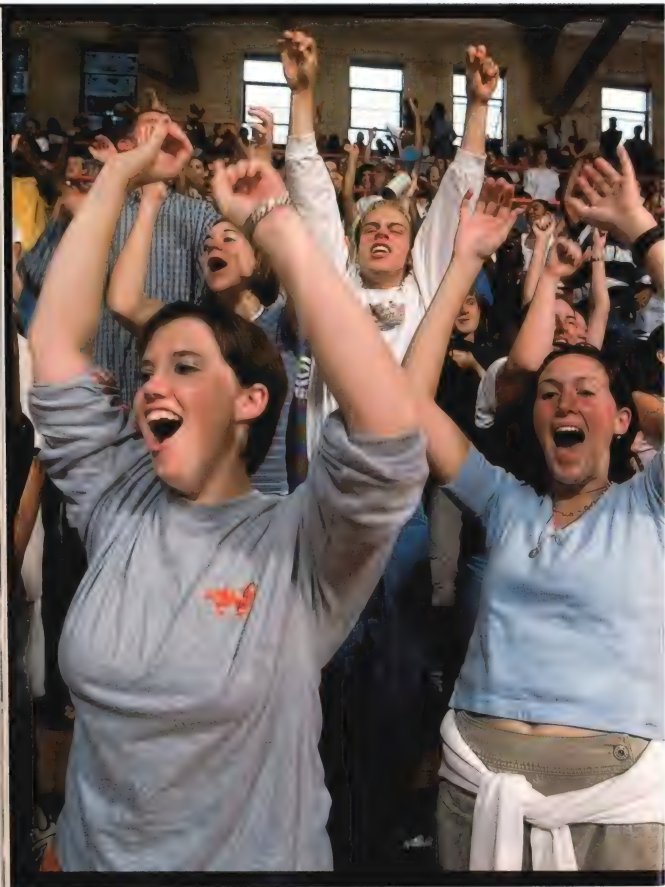
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# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A **HIGH** SCHOOL

By NANCY GIBBS

EVERYONE HAS A STORY FROM HIGH school, sketched out of memory and myth. The myth reflects the faith that we all have a chance to invent ourselves, and high school is the lab. We enter, still children, for this sweaty, four-year experiment, and if we are brave and lucky, we race out the big double doors that graduation flings open onto the rest of our life. Sometimes we don't even think to look back at the ones who got lost along the way.

The stakes are so high, the experience so searing that in retrospect we sometimes polish it up. These are the best of times; you'll remember your prom as long as you live. Tuesday pep rallies for Friday football games; band practice and the fall musical, *Young Life* and the Key Club and the astronomy class that met at midnight to watch the cradle moon rise. Even the pain looks poetic from a distance.



## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

The vast majority of our kids, the ones we love and never read about, make it through high school intact, without incident. They do the reading and sing in the choir and bag groceries after school and buy the class T shirt and don't pierce anything below their ears. And yet everything that happens to them is huge. Everybody matters: the teacher who hoists students' ambitions up to meet their potential, or the one who just ignores whatever they say until they stop saying anything; the nurse who takes students into her home to keep them from falling apart; the classmate who teaches loyalty; the coach who instills some discipline. Sometimes the lessons inside the classroom are the least of it.

Look inside a high school, and you are looking in a mirror, under bright lights. How we treat our children, what they see and learn from us, tell us what is healthy and what is sick—and more about who we are than we may want to know. Dylan Klebold lives here, and so does Cassie Bernall, and they can't help showing us what's on their mind, because that's the nature of teenagers. So come in only if you want to learn. All they will give us is a glimpse, but even that may knock the wind out of us.

It is easy to understand, even before Columbine but certainly since, why the adults in a high school could conclude that their most important job was less to teach kids than just to keep them safe, hold their hands, feed them, shape them, show them right from wrong. In loco parentis is just the beginning. In loco all the

rest of us as well. Politicians and reformers can talk all they want about standards and vouchers and academic performance, but the people on the front lines worry about a lot more than test scores.

"This place is like a town," says English teacher Minnie Phillips. "We have a jail, a hospital, a restaurant, a theater. We've got everything you need here ... but everyone goes home at night." And with luck, comes back the next morning.

"This place" is Webster Groves High School, which sits off the main street of a pretty town of old elms and deep porches, about 10 miles southwest of St. Louis, Mo., where, when people ask you where you went to school, they are not referring to college. That's just the way it is here: high school tugs hard and holds on; people graduate and come back and send their kids,

who graduate and do the same. This town of 23,000 is not as tony as nearby Clayton or Ladue; it has its mix of \$90,000 cottages and \$750,000 homes, young marrieds and old-line families and transient middle managers assigned to a stint in the St. Louis office who are looking for a comfortable place to settle and keep their kids on the track toward prosperity.

And yet this school, like every other school, is changing fast, by accident and design, because everything that touches it is changing too—the economy, family life, technology, race relations, values, expectations. TIME picked this school for the same reason marketing experts and sociologists like to wander this way when they are looking to take the country's temperature: the state of Missouri, especially the regions around St. Louis, are bellwether communities, not cutting edge, not lagging indicators, but the middle of the country, middle of the road, middle of the sky.

To study a school like this is to take an advanced course in compromise. Is it worth renouncing homework and offering credit for rock climbing if it keeps struggling kids in school and out of trouble, massages them through to graduation, maybe even a junior college? Is it worth letting kids work 30 hours a week after school, even if grades suffer and half a dozen are asleep in many a first-period class,



**THE PRINCIPAL.** For Pat Voss and her team, walkie-talkies serve as their electronic dragnet



in the belief that this is training for the "real world"? Is it worth busing 161 black kids in from St. Louis, in a program that provides the school district where they go an extra \$2 million in state aid, if parents and some teachers quietly argue that because of busing, overall achievement has fallen? Is it worth turning the principal and her deputies into sentries, equipped at all times not with books or rulers but with walkie-talkies, if it keeps the lid from blowing off?

After Columbine, West Paducah and Conyers, some schools have turned into citadels. metal detectors at the doors, mesh backpacks required. Not Webster. The doors are open at dawn and left unguarded; 96% of the kids polled this fall by the student newspaper say they feel safe in school. They say the kids get along pretty well, races mix, jocks and geeks hang out together. And yet they will say, if you ask, "Littleton could happen here." Last spring, af-





**FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHTERS** If this season's winning streak continues, the players hope more fans will turn out to watch their games

ter Columbine, someone scrawled a bomb threat on the wall of a boys' bathroom. The marginal kids know they are being watched, very, very closely.

If there is a secret to running a school in post-Columbine America, it is to make sure the place keeps no secrets from you. Since schools are populated by adolescents—that eager, suspicious, alienated, hyperbolic cohort—this alone is a full-time job. "There are two directions that schools are going in: to improve the climate and build trust, or to have metal detectors and transparent lockers," says assistant principal John Raimondo.

Webster Groves has made a conscious decision to try to control the weather. The school would much rather prevent a disas-

ter than clean up after one—which means that a child who so much as murmurs a threat toward himself or a teacher or another student is immediately under the microscope. But still the tempests come. "Drinking is the biggest problem," says police captain Doug Jacobs, class of '59, "and the parents that allow it." A child from a prominent family has a beer-and-booze party in the backyard while Mom and Dad are not home. There is the boy who dived into drugs and death threats and knives last year after his good friend died, the boy's soft, slashed wrist a souvenir of his journey through grief. He keeps in his planner the business cards of the hospitals that have treated him.

Teachers, like parents, have always faced the tension between roots and wings: how to keep kids safe and grounded; how to let them stretch and fly. But after so many shocking headlines,



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

**THE CHEERLEADERS** At their slumber party before the big pep rally, they eat nachos and popcorn and limbo to the sound of *Respect*

the adults are edgy and tempted to try to stamp out teenage rebellion and cruelty and popularity contests altogether. At a Webster pep rally, for the first time, individual team members are no longer introduced by name—to keep the cheering and booing from getting personal. Cheerleaders are picked by a panel of outside professionals, the football team rotates its captains so no one is favored, and anyone can show up for the Student Council meetings. Some students don't know who the senior-class president is. Adults "don't want to offend certain groups," says senior Lizzie

Sprague, 17. "They are afraid [students] are going to go buy guns and kill everybody."

So if you aren't allowed to wear a hat, toot your horn, form a clique or pick on a freshman, all because everyone is worried that someone might snap, it's fair to ask: Are high schools preparing kids for the big ugly world outside those doors—or handicapping them once they get there? High school was once useful as a controlled environment, where it was safe to learn to handle rejection, competition, cruelty, charisma. Now that we've discovered how unsafe a school can be, it may have become so controlled that some lessons will just have to be learned elsewhere.

At times it seems that the faculty is engaged in a giant game of chicken—and some kids have learned to take advantage of it. For many, the extent of their forethought is



WEBSTER GROVES AVERAGE AMERICAN

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

1,325 900-1,200

SPENDING PER PUPIL

\$7,404 \$6,950

COMBINED SAT SCORES

1110 1016

PERCENTAGE WHO GO

ON TO COLLEGE

78% 67%

MEDIAN PRICE OF SINGLE-

FAMILY HOME

\$140,100 \$132,700

Source: Webster Groves School District, Department of Education, ReadyNET Midway Readers, National Association of Realtors, ETG

making plans for the weekend, and even those are subject to change at the last minute. They get jobs, not necessarily to save for college but to buy a \$400 leather jacket. So many kids skip their homework that most teachers stop assigning more than 15 minutes' worth: ask too much, push too hard, and the students will give up, drop out, become a menace to society. We have to strike a balance, the adults say. We have to be reasonable. We want them to enjoy themselves, have a certain freedom, before the world turns serious on them and there is no going back to 17.

There is an excellent education lurking here for the child with an inner flashlight. The best teachers arrive early and leave late and wrestle to make everything they teach mean something, and they all show up at the football game at the end of the week, their own kids in tow, cheering their students on and mixing and meddling with their lives in the bleachers. Walk down the halls, stop and listen in, and you can hear those moments of collision and discovery. "Some of you were complaining that the questions I was asking about *The Scarlet Letter* were making your brains hurt," says David Mendelson to his honors English class. "That is the goal." He is trying to take them to the point where their heads throb, because that is the point at which they learn. "If the question is easy, I have failed." Maybe high school is supposed to hurt some. That is also why we remember what happens here forever—all the triumphs and all the scars, all the effort to tell which is which.



**FOOTBALL FIVE** Bobby Granderson goofed off for three years, until he realized that college coaches actually look at players' grades





**PLAYING IT SAFE** In drama class, students use "dance bags" and scarves as part of their exercises in movement control and expression. Webster is strong in the performing arts

## Monday

**T**HE AIR IS SWEET AND THE stars are out, the milky streetlamps still lit at 5:45. It would be a great morning to be fishing. The school doors are already open when principal Pat Voss pads up the front steps in her cranberry Goofy T shirt and heads for the main office. Nancy Giessmann is in the cafeteria making breakfast, Vron Murphy is in the office doing photocopying left from the night before. The flag next to the front steps is still flying at half-staff, in honor of the teacher who dropped dead in the hallway between periods two weeks ago.

Voss, universally known as P.V., climbs up to the windowless weight room above the gym for her morning workout: abdominal crunches in sets of 20, leg presses and toe raises, free weights for working her obliques. She's thinking about tonight's school-board meeting. A survey last year found that most people in town are happy with the schools—which she considers a challenge. "That could mean they're less willing to spend more to improve them."

The building is brick and stone, sprawling in all directions, additions stapled on here, an annex there, accidental courtyards created in between as the building grew to accommodate 1,300-plus kids and their growing appetites. Just two years ago, if you plugged in a computer, it might have blown out a circuit. The school has been revired since then. Chief custodian Frank Schaffer is already inspecting the premises, moving back the picnic tables that the skateboarders clear out every weekend. He knows every inch of the place, from the mile of utility tunnels in the basement to the old attic that was once used as a rifle range. "This building is a living organism," he says. "It lives for the people inside it."

The first wave of students arrives at 6:55 a.m. Six buses from downtown St. Louis pull in bearing the "deseg" kids, most of whom head for the cafeteria. The band members have practice most days before school; drowsy musicians start stumbling onto the field across from the entrance. Jacob Myerson is upstairs in a dim hallway, sitting on the floor outside Room 319, some 40 minutes early for class, studying vocabulary words. *Histri-*



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

onic. Poignant. Unkempt. Loquacious. He wants to go to Princeton.

By 6:45 a.m. Detective Dave Dreher has already been briefed by the Webster Groves police department about the weekend. "If no crimes were committed over the weekend, no juvenile matters, nobody arrested, nobody hurt, no traffic accidents, nobody locked up that I have to go interview, then that's a good morning. We're having a good morning." His loaded Smith & Wesson, his badge and his beeper are all hidden under his brown sports jacket, but he carries the school's ubiquitous power symbol, a walkie-talkie, and it will crackle and sputter plenty before the day is safely started.

Nurse Lynn Buss is preparing for the Monday flood. Her "clinic" is tucked away on the first floor of the pre-1935 extension that she calls "the North Forty" because of its remoteness. The first wave consists of girls who march straight into one

al that is under construction by some seniors. THE THINGS WE VALUE AND BELIEVE IN, it says in bright letters, with white clouds and smiling kids made of construction paper and all the students' names and thoughts pasted on in little fortune-cookie strips of revelation. DREAMS, says one. MIRACLES. LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT. ART. But lest anyone mistake this for a giant Hallmark card, there is much more here. LONELINESS. GREED. AN EYE FOR AN EYE. PARTIES. WEAKNESS. DRAGONS. ABSTINENCE. JUSTICE. WEALTH. PEOPLE CAN CHANGE.

Nurse Buss slips down to the cafeteria

third-grade levels. "I need the English credit to graduate," she says. Just down the hall, you see another kid, copying answers from one purple sheet to another.

Two kids wearing hats spot Detective Dreher in the hall and whip them off; this year there is a no-hat rule. "Thank you, gentlemen," he says. The school doesn't want anyone wearing anything that might identify them as a member of an exclusive group; last year, says an openly gay student, the kids who harassed him the most were known as the White Hatters, after their headgear. The administration also worried about kids' starting to wear gang colors.

Detective Dreher is treated with respect, even affection; he's been known to drive kids home at night or spring for a cab when they're stranded, call them in the morning to be sure they're up, use the office slim-jim to help them break into their cars when they lock the keys inside, throw in a job reference for a dropout at his brother-in-law's restaurant. At 7:50 his walkie-talkie erupts with a call from principal Voss; custodian Schaffer has discovered obscene graf-



**WORKING WEDNESDAY** Voss typically gets to school by 5:45 a.m. to distribute messages, work the phones and hit the weights

to haul back a bucket of ice. "My major cure," she notes. "When in doubt, put ice on it." She flushes an amorous couple from the girls' room in the back. "We were just talking," the boy protests. The kids are already lining up outside her office: one girl is there for iron pills to treat her anemia—a poor substitute, notes Buss, for what she really needs, which is a decent diet. Another has a bruised hand from a fight over the weekend; a boy wants Tylenol for a stomachache; she gives him baking soda and water.

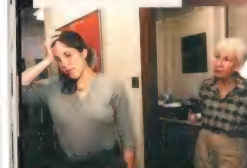
A girl who forgot her inhaler is having an asthma attack. Buss draws her a glass of tap water and instructs her to gulp it down quickly; the shock of the intrusion, she says, often releases the asthmatic constriction. Part 2 of this home remedy is a shot of Diet Coke: the caffeine sometimes has a similar effect. Outside, the marching band is rehearsing the borrowed strains of *On Wisconsin*. Buss predicts, "By November I'll be able to walk out there and play it myself."

Senior Sarah Bradberry sits on the floor, reading *The Whipping Boy* for her children's literature class. She scribbles answers to questions printed on purple paper, homework she should have done over the weekend. The class, she says, is easy. All the students do is interpret books written at



**EARLY CALL** Because it's so early in the morning, members of the marching band must struggle to keep step at practice

fit in the parking lot and on the grass. Dreher can see them from where he's standing. After finding Schaffer and having a quick conference with Voss by walkie-talkie, Dreher gets a digital camera to record the writing—so he can see if it matches the work of any known culprits—before the custodian sets to work with his cleansers.



**QUESTIONS ARE BEING ASKED** Nurse Buss sees Emily Nell, as Monday morning's rush hour of aches and pains waits for her attention

of three exam rooms, where they throw down their bookbags, turn out the lights and flop onto cots, asleep before they hit the pillow. Nurse Buss is unfazed. "These kids who get bused in from the city get up before 5," she explains. "They come here to sleep for half an hour before class."

The rest of the population begins to stir. The students come from every direction, by bus, on foot, in every size and shape of car. Some slouch through the doors, some bounce, some seem so fully grown, others are toddlers; they wear shorts and parkas and black trench coats; they are dyed and pierced and bespectacled and masearated and pumped up and wasted away; and none of them are typical—there is no such thing as average.

As they come in the front doors, they pass a big display case holding a new mur-



Walking counselor Bob Walker, balancing two boxes of Krispy Kreme doughnuts he's brought in for the school's secretaries, is on the move. He's a big man, ex-Navy, with a voice higher than you'd expect and clothes a size too small. It's his job to catch the smokers, the illegal parkers, the kids without hall

street behind the school is filled with cars. Seniors get first dibs on the few precious spaces in the lot as long as they're willing to pay \$45 a year, so underclassmen with cars must search for any spaces around the school. Those who do use the lot seem to have silently reached an agreement as to

an orange faded polo, tells the band that he knows what's going on and says, "I want you to think: Are you saying things to your peers that you might regret?"

Head librarian Grant Brady is in the library, with a problem. He has been wondering for a while now what to do with a book called *Long Road to Freedom: The Advocate History of the Gay and Lesbian Movement*, that is hidden under a stack of papers on a desk. He ordered the book based on catalog descriptions, thinking it would provide insight on gay politics. When the book arrived, however, he found that it included several frontal nude photos of men. He has never been told to get rid of a book, and he doesn't want to be a censor—but he would not have bought the book if he had known about the photos. He has not decided what to do.

On the roof, two young men sprint on their tiptoes across the asphalt, careful not to draw the attention of the band practicing across the street. "Stay low," one tells the other. "Get down." They are carrying the head of a female mannequin that



**SLEEPY IN ST. LOUIS**  
Above, Sara Oheron, left, and David Wollaefer find it hard to get going in Mrs. Brewster's world-lit class

who will get to park in a particular space. "Rule No. 1 of the parking lot," says Walker: "Do not run over the fat man with the walkie-talkie."

By now there are more than 40 members of the marching band scattered on the field across from the school entrance. Like a flock of birds forming a flying pattern, the musicians sort into 10 parallel lines grouped by instrument. The flutes—17 girls and one boy—are on the far left, and the lower brass—all but one of them boys—are on the far right. They serenade the parked buses, the kids draped on the front steps. "It's a poor substitute for coffee," says a spectator as the tempo picks up. "This Sunday I'm gonna discreetly plant land mines all over that field." He pauses. "Or maybe build a Burmese tiger trap."

After scales and On Wisconsin, Dane Williams, the band's faculty leader, calls the members into the center of the field for a pep talk cum encounter session. Over the past couple of weeks the drum majors have been fighting, accusing each other of being bossy, and band members are beginning to take sides. Mr. Williams, in blue jeans and



**DETECTIVE UNDER:** The school's full-time police officer dresses like a banker but keeps a Smith & Wesson under that jacket

they've named Headrietta, which they borrowed from a Spanish teacher's closet. They reach the edge of the roof and count off spaces to a classroom below. They lie on their stomachs, leaning over the edge, and lower the head down the side of the building by a string tied to its blond hair. "Over to the left ... Over to the left!" When they bang it against a third-floor window, several girls in a classroom scream. The pranksters giggle and scramble back across the roof and hustle down a ladder. They don't want to be late for the start of the next class period. After all, they are the teachers.

Brian Yates and Terry Verstraete are the class clowns among the faculty. Last year the pair, along with math teacher Eric

passes. "Ninety-eight percent of our students are really good kids," he says, "but I don't really know any of them. It's the other 2% that take all my time."

He's used to Monday morning as a rough passage, bursting out with a cheery "good morning" every time students pass by; they give him the look of death as they mutter their hellos. A few are carrying a bagged McDonald's breakfast with them as they exit the parking lot. By 7:10 a.m., the





**KEEPING PACE:**  
With school life  
moving at breakneck  
speed, studying  
doesn't always get  
done the night before

Dunn, climbed on the roof and aimed Super Soaker water guns at students on the sidewalk below. A woman who lives across the street called the police, saying kids were on the roof with guns. They saw a police officer circling the building and hurried down, just in time to be greeted by an assistant principal who radioed Pat Voss that he had captured the culprits.

"Students?" Voss asked. When he answered no, Voss hesitated before asking with a strained voice, "Faculty?"

None of the teachers was reprimanded, but students—and colleagues—won't soon let them forget. "We call them Pat's Children," says a teacher. Their practical jokes are nothing more than "humor interventions," they say. "We do it to relieve the stress," says Verstraete. "We like to keep things saucy." —N.G.

## 7:10 A.M. | SCHOOL SECURITY

### Always on the lookout for signs of trouble

**T**HE STUDENT HAD STUCK A straight pin through his tongue and casually worked it around in his mouth as he chatted with his teacher. When she persuaded him to remove it, he asked if she had a safety pin that he could put in its place. Then he asked what would happen to a student who threatened a teacher.

That chilling little drama took place last week, and now, 20 minutes before the opening bell, 10 fully caffeinated members of the Webster Groves staff, led by principal Voss, are discussing what to do about

it—beyond the temporary suspension the student received straightaway. The group comprises what the school calls a Safe Team. It includes all the student's teachers, a guidance counselor, the school's part-time social worker and its police liaison officer. The team's first concern is to get the troubled student the help he obviously needs. But there's another mission, and an undercurrent of worry that is new since Conyers and Columbine: any report of a threat, however veiled, is taken seriously and pounced upon immediately. Any Webster student who poses a danger to himself is considered a potential danger to others.

Over the summer Webster Groves administrators reviewed the school shootings of recent years—what they had in common, what warning signs were missed, what safety measures might have made a differ-

PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS



## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

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**IN THE MOMENT** Sometimes the place seems like a police state, but after the spate of incidents in schools around the country, Webster Groves administrators are vigilant

Group, whose duties include reporting any incidents or smoldering resentments that might lead to trouble. Kids who look or act different at Webster know the walls have ears. Meanwhile, Voss and her assistants, walkie-talkies in hand, routinely roam the halls between classes. In order to avoid the appearance of a police state, it seems, Webster Groves has had to create a real one.

What keeps the place from feeling like North Korea, though, is the genuinely benevolent interest the school's adults take in the lives of their students—on and off campus. Teachers at Webster know a remarkable amount about which girl's parents are breaking up and which boy chafes at his big sister's accomplishments. And they get involved. Last year teachers noticed that one girl was suddenly doing poorly in school: she was often tardy, slept through class, didn't do her homework and dyed her hair wild colors. Counselors made a visit to the address listed as her home and found she was living there alone. Her grandmother had been there with her but was in the hospital, and the girl was estranged from her parents. She was using drugs and alcohol to "self-medicate" for depression.

Webster staff members get involved in other ways. One senior, a gifted poet who

won't graduate unless she can take some remedial courses across town, doesn't have a ride to those evening classes. So assistant principal George White drives her. White is also on a mission to help a new boy with Down syndrome. When White recently asked if he needed anything, the boy said softly, "Friends. I need friends."

That's the tone of the Safe Team meeting this morning about the boy with the pin in his tongue. The group reviews his record, which includes prior incidents of setting his pants on fire, threatening suicide and failing to take his medication. The news is not all bad. One teacher notes that "he participates in class, does his homework and wants to do well." Someone else reports that the boy "had a period last year when he talked about dropping out and getting a job." But the consensus is that if he could get back on track in school, it would be better for him—and for Webster Groves. "If he's out on the street," says Raimondo, "he could be more of a danger to himself and others." The meeting ends with an agreement to discuss the boy's problems further with his parents and his private psychiatrist—and to watch him closely when he returns to class.

*By Dan Goodgame*

ence—and then formulated a new security strategy. They rejected the metal detectors and bomb-sniffing dogs routinely employed by many schools in favor of an aggressive program of prevention and early detection—not just of obvious threats and violence but also of anything that might lead that way, including petty conflicts among cliques. Says assistant principal Raimondo: "We're trying to pay more attention to kids on the front end." Teachers and support staff are instructed to alert administrators not only to overt discipline problems but also to subtler signs, like a sharp decline in a student's grades or a loss of interest in favorite activities. Says Raimondo: "It gives us 130 pairs of eyes."

In fact, the snoop-to-student ratio at Webster is quite high. Voss has selected 60 kids for her Principal's Student Leadership



## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

### Conflict Mediation

8-10 A.M.

"I moved forward, and I almost hit somebody else, and I made them mad, so they flicked me the finger," says Christian Kirk.

"I got mad 'cause I had to drive into another lane, so I gave him the finger," says Bryan Patterson, at right, foreground.

What makes this testimony interesting is that it reverses

what really happened. Last Thursday, Bryan nearly clipped Christian, who gave him the finger (which caused Bryan to follow him home and eventually to return with friends). But telling the other guy's side of the story is an integral part of assistant principal George White's seven-year-old conflict-mediation program.

Participating in mediation is not compulsory, but it can forestall a suspension, and mediators from the staff, or one of 65 selected students, conduct up to five a week. "The incidence

of fights is way down," says White. "They don't really want to hurt each other."

He asks Christian what concerns he should have had ("The girls in the car with me"). And for Bryan, how many could have got hurt ("Seven people"). He elicits pledges from each to avoid the other and to alert him if there's a problem:

"It's always better to talk man to man, isn't it?"

The two boys shake hands and (for now) come out not fighting.



7:30 A.M. | ENGLISH CLASS

### Do you reach for the sky, or just get by?

**M**INNIE PHILLIPS IS BRACING FOR her first-period 10th-grade English students. She always has them at 7:30 a.m., a launch time that is an insult to the teenage metabolism.

"Would you please turn to page 23 in your vocabulary workbook?"

A groan. "Can't we just sleep instead?" Phillips runs through some words—*assuage*, *brandish*, *staid*—before getting down to business, a discussion of Eugenia Collier's short story *Sweet Potato Pie*. "What's unusual about this title?" No one bites, so she answers her own question. "It has pie! Now how many of you have not had sweet-potato pie?"

Only a few raise their hands. "What's wrong with you all?" smirks Ebony Ingram. "Look, it's all the white boys." Two of the parents promised Phillips last week at parents' night that they would send in a pie for this morning's class; neither seems to have remembered.

Phillips tells the class of a restaurant she went to over the weekend that served the pie, as well as ham hocks, collard greens and smothered beef stew. "And what do all these things have in common?" The white students are still stumped when Robert Givens chimes in. "No offense to my Caucasian friends, but sounds to me like you were eating black foods," he says.

"Well, they're soul food," Phillips says. And with that the class starts spitting out associations, and she is at the board writing: tradition, culture, grandmother, filling, ample. Now everyone is paying attention.

Phillips, a sharecropper's daughter, is one of those magical teachers whom you could imagine in a hundred roles: talk-show host, prison warden, poet laureate,



**MASTER TEACHER** Minnie Phillips was one of the first black students in her previously white high school; she graduated at 16, finished college at 19, then came to teach at Webster



# "Breast cancer doesn't take a break, so I don't want to take a break from chemo."



When my doctor told me that my white blood cell count was too low to give me my full dose of chemo, I felt completely helpless. Then I learned that there was something I could do to fight back.

*"My doctor prescribed NEUPOGEN® (Filgrastim) to get my chemotherapy treatments back on track."*

Luckily, my doctor took my low white blood cell count seriously — she was concerned that even a sniffle could put me in the hospital. So she prescribed NEUPOGEN® to build up my white blood cells and cut down my risk of infection. Right away, we were able to get my chemotherapy treatments back on track — and I breathed a sigh of relief.

*"A.C.C.E.S.S. told me why it was so important to receive my full dose of chemotherapy."*

Soon after, I found the real reason it's so important to stay on schedule with my treatments. There's research that shows women with breast cancer actually do better when they receive their full planned chemotherapy dose on time.<sup>1,2,3</sup> I came across that in A.C.C.E.S.S. (Amgen Cancer & Chemotherapy Educational Support System™). It's a special information program for women getting chemotherapy for breast cancer. It's free and it helps me deal with the big questions I face everyday.

*In studies with 207 patients receiving NEUPOGEN® therapy following combination chemotherapy, bone pain was reported in 22% of patients. In most cases, bone pain was controlled with non-narcotic analgesics such as acetaminophen.*

Please see the following page for important product information.

Bonadonna T, Valagussa P, Moliterni A, et al. Adjuvant cyclophosphamide, methotrexate, and fluorouracil in node-positive breast cancer. *N Engl J Med* 1995; 332:901-906. Wood WC, Budman DR, Kuzum AH, et al. Dose and dose intensity of adjuvant chemotherapy for stage II, node-positive breast carcinoma. *N Engl J Med* 1994; 330:1253-1259. Budman DR, Berry DA, Garinotte CL, et al. Dose and dose intensity as determinants of outcome in the adjuvant treatment of breast cancer. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 1986; 90:1205-1211. ©1999 Amgen Inc. All rights reserved.

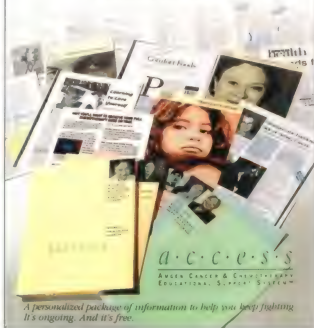
The A.C.C.E.S.S. team handpicks what to send me, and when to send it; what to expect at each stage of treatment, the ins and outs of clinical trials — even places to find more information. I've gotten good ideas on how to talk to my kids (it's all so hard for them) and how to handle work issues. Best of all is reading about other women's experiences. I need all the help I can get.

**Get A.C.C.E.S.S. for yourself. (It's free.)**  
*Because the more you know, the harder you can fight.*

When you're battling breast cancer, you're in the fight of your life. A.C.C.E.S.S. can help you fight — with information you can use right now. There are magazine articles, printouts from the web, recipe cards from the American Cancer Society — and articles written just for the program. Along with your own portfolio and folders to keep everything organized.

To get A.C.C.E.S.S., all you have to do is send back the attached reply card or call

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# NEUPOGEN® FILGRASTIM

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

#### Cancer Patients Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

NEUPOGEN is indicated to decrease the incidence of infection as manifested by febrile neutropenia in patients with nonmyeloid malignancies receiving myelosuppressive anti-cancer drugs associated with a significant incidence of severe neutropenia with fever (see CLINICAL EXPERIENCE). A complete blood count (CBC) and platelet count should be obtained prior to chemotherapy, and twice per week (see LABORATORY MONITORING) during NEUPOGEN therapy to avoid leukocytosis and to monitor the neutrophil count. In phase 3 clinical studies, NEUPOGEN therapy was discontinued when the absolute neutrophil count (ANC) was  $\geq 10,000/\text{mm}^3$  after the expected chemotherapy-induced nadir.

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

NEUPOGEN is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to *E. coli*-derived proteins, Filgrastim, or any component of the product.

#### WARNINGS

Allergic-type reactions occurring on initial or subsequent treatment have been reported in < 1 in 4000 patients treated with NEUPOGEN. These have generally been characterized by dyspneic symptoms involving all two body systems, most often skin (rash, urticaria, facial edema) respiratory (wheezing, dyspnea), and cardiovascular (hypotension, tachycardia). Some reactions occurred on initial exposure. Reactions tended to occur within the first 30 minutes after administration and appeared to occur more frequently in patients receiving NEUPOGEN intravenously.

#### PRECAUTIONS

##### General

#### Simultaneous Use with Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy

The safety and efficacy of NEUPOGEN given simultaneously with cytotoxic chemotherapy have not been established. Because of the potential for toxicity, administration of NEUPOGEN to patients receiving cytotoxic chemotherapy, do not use NEUPOGEN in the period 24 hours before through 24 hours after the administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy.

The efficacy of NEUPOGEN has not been evaluated in patients receiving chemotherapy associated with delayed myelosuppression (eg, mitomycin) or with mitomycin C or with myelosuppressive doses of anti-metabolites such as 5-fluorouracil.

The safety and efficacy of NEUPOGEN have not been evaluated in patients receiving concurrent radiation therapy. Simultaneous use of NEUPOGEN with chemotherapy and radiation therapy should be avoided.

#### Potential Effect on Malignant Cells

NEUPOGEN is a growth factor that primarily stimulates neutrophils. However, the possibility that NEUPOGEN may also be a growth factor for other types of cells has not been excluded. In a phase 3 clinical study evaluating the effects of NEUPOGEN versus placebo in patients undergoing remission induction for AML, there was no significant difference in remission rate, disease-free or overall survival.

The safety of NEUPOGEN in chronic myeloid leukemia and myelodysplasia has not been established.

When NEUPOGEN is used to mobilize PBPC, tumor cells may be released from the marrow and subsequently collected in the leukapheresis product. The effect of resuspension of tumor cells has not been well studied, and the limited data available are inconclusive.

#### Leukocytosis

#### Cancer Patients Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

While blood cell counts of  $100,000/\text{mm}^3$  or greater were observed in approximately 2% of patients receiving NEUPOGEN at doses above 5 mcg/kg/day. There were no reports of adverse events associated with this degree of leukocytosis.

#### Premature Discontinuation of NEUPOGEN Therapy

#### Cancer Patients Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

Premature discontinuation of NEUPOGEN therapy, prior to the time of recovery from the expected neutrophil nadir, is generally not recommended.

#### Other

Because of the potential of receiving higher doses of chemotherapy (ie, full doses on the prescribed schedule), the patient may be at greater risk of thrombocytopenia, anemia, and neutropenic consequences of increased chemotherapy doses (please refer to the prescribing information of the specific chemotherapy agents used). Care should be exercised in the administration of NEUPOGEN in patients with other major systemic reactions to chemotherapy, including febrile neutropenia, leukopenia, and neutropenic colitis. The physician should be alert to the theoretical possibility of adult respiratory distress syndrome, due to the possible influx of neutrophils at the site of inflammation.

There have been rare reports (< 1 in 7000 patients) of cutaneous vasculitis in patients treated with NEUPOGEN. In most cases, the severity of cutaneous vasculitis was moderate (ie, severe). Most of these patients received therapy with corticosteroids and/or immunosuppressants. In some cases, therapy with corticosteroids was generally developed simultaneously with an increase in the ANC and abated when the ANC decreased. Many patients were able to continue NEUPOGEN at a reduced dose.

#### Laboratory Monitoring

#### Cancer Patients Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

A CBC and platelet count should be obtained prior to chemotherapy, and at regular intervals (twice per week) during NEUPOGEN therapy.

#### Drug Interactions

Drug interactions between NEUPOGEN and other drugs have not been fully evaluated. Drugs which may potentiate the release of neutrophils, such as lithium, should be used with caution.

#### Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

The carcinogenic potential of NEUPOGEN has not been studied. NEUPOGEN failed to induce carcinomas in mice. The carcinogenicity of NEUPOGEN in humans is unknown. NEUPOGEN had no observed effect on the fertility of male or female rats, or on gestation at doses up to 500 mcg/kg.

#### Pregnancy Category C

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. NEUPOGEN should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

### NEUPOGEN® (FILGRASTIM)

#### Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether NEUPOGEN is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised if NEUPOGEN is administered to a nursing woman.

#### Pediatric Use

Serious long-term risks associated with daily administration of NEUPOGEN have not been identified in pediatric patients (ages 4 months to 17 years) with severe chronic neutropenia. The safety and efficacy in neonates and patients with autoimmune neutropenia of infancy have not been established. In the cancer setting, 12 pediatric patients with neuroblastoma have received up to six (6) mcg/kg intravenous NEUPOGEN daily. In these patients, no adverse events were observed. In patients with NEUPOGEN in this population, NEUPOGEN was well tolerated. There was one report of palpable splenomegaly associated with NEUPOGEN therapy; however, the only consistently reported adverse event was musculoskeletal pain, which is no different from the experience in the adult population.

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

#### Cancer Patients Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

In clinical trials involving over 350 patients receiving NEUPOGEN following nonmyeloablative cytotoxic chemotherapy, most adverse experiences were the sequelae of the underlying malignancy or cytotoxic chemotherapy. In all phase 2 and 3 trials, medullary bone pain, reported in 1/3 of patients, was the only consistently observed adverse reaction attributed to NEUPOGEN therapy. Bone pain was reported more frequently in patients treated with higher doses (20 to 100 mcg/kg/day) administered N, and less frequently in patients treated with lower SC doses of NEUPOGEN (5 to 10 mcg/kg/day).

In the randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of NEUPOGEN therapy following combination chemotherapy in patients (N = 207) with small cell lung cancer, the following adverse events were reported during blinded cycles of study medication (placebo or NEUPOGEN at 4-15 mcg/kg/day). Events occurring in patients receiving NEUPOGEN were reported in patients receiving double-blind NEUPOGEN a median of three cycles versus one cycle for placebo.

Event	% of Blinded Cycles with Events NEUPOGEN N = 384 patient cycles	% of Blinded Cycles with Events Placebo N = 257 patient cycles
Nausea/Vomiting	57	64
Skeletal Pain	22	11
Allopia	18	27
Diarrhea	14	23
Neutropenic Fever	13	35
Mucositis	12	20
Fever	12	21
Fatigue	11	16
Anorexia	9	11
Dyspnea	9	11
Headache	7	9
Cough	6	8
Skin Rash	6	9
Chest Pain	5	6
Generalized Weakness	4	7
Sore Throat	4	9
Stomatitis	5	10
Constipation	5	10
Pain (Unspecified)	2	7

In this study, there were no serious, life-threatening, or fatal adverse reactions attributed to NEUPOGEN therapy. Specifically, there were no reports of flu-like symptoms, pleuritis, pericarditis or other major systemic reactions to NEUPOGEN.

Spontaneously reversible increases in uric acid, lactate dehydrogenase, and alkaline phosphatase occurred in 27% to 58% of 58 patients receiving blinded NEUPOGEN therapy.

Transient elevations in blood pressure (systolic blood pressure  $> 160/\text{mmHg}$ ) which did not require clinical treatment, were reported in 7 of 175 patients in phase 3 clinical studies following administration of NEUPOGEN. Cardiac events (myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, stroke) were reported in 1/18 patients receiving NEUPOGEN in clinical studies. The relationship to NEUPOGEN therapy is unknown. No evidence of interaction of NEUPOGEN with other drugs was observed in the course of clinical trials (see PRECAUTIONS).

#### DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### Cancer Patients Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy

NEUPOGEN should be administered no earlier than 24 hours after the administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy. NEUPOGEN should not be administered in the period 24 hours before the administration of chemotherapy.

**AMGEN**

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mayor of a midsize city. She teaches some of the best kids in the school and some of the worst, but like many teachers, it's the ones in the middle she is concerned about. "In trying to be something for everybody, we're not doing an intensive job for any group," she says. "There's something noble about this mission, but it doesn't always serve students well."

This class includes kids on the cusp. About half say they plan to go to college. One already knows he wants to join the Army, become an MP, then be a cop. "Better be a crooked cop," a classmate advises him. "That's where the money is." One is great with computers. One says beer is his life. Many have some trouble with their writing skills. They say their dream classroom would have no desks, just couches.

Like many teachers, Phillips has enormous control over what gets taught in her classroom and yet admits she is constrained when it comes to standards and expectations, like assigning homework. She guesses about 15% in her class actually do it, which means she can't base Tuesday's class on readings that no one did the night before. Bright kids get bored; slow kids get lost; the kids in the middle muddle through. Her colleague Bob Hutcheson puts it this way: "I wonder if among their peers, there isn't a certain norm of mediocrity. And if they shoot for the middle, they'll always settle for less."

The pressure to prevent kids from getting discouraged and dropping out seeps through the very bricks of Webster Groves. To graduate, a student must earn 22 credits, with a semester course typically counting as half a credit. Communications classes (known elsewhere as English) is the only subject that requires three full credits (communications includes classes like public



**BASIC THEATER CLASS** As part of the theater program, Webster students get a chance to try improvisational parts and playacting

speaking, journalism and even children's literature, a course with 30 students that involves close readings of Dr. Seuss.) In history, science and math—the other "hard" subjects—students need only two full credits, the state minimum, to graduate. This means that responsible students can be finished with most of their core courses by the end of sophomore year.

It's no wonder that seniors fill their schedules with community campus (working a job for course credit), student assistant (run errands for your favorite teacher for course credit) and senior leadership seminar (a double-period, low-homework class, where the grade is based on showing up, having a positive attitude and participating in exercises ranging from rock climbing to community service at a homeless shelter.) "They don't care if you learn," says junior Steve Rois. "They only care if you pass."

The kids and the parents and the teachers all make the same case: there are superb teachers teaching challenging courses for talented kids. But if you are not highly motivated, it is easy to skate through school on a smile and a whim. "I have absolutely no homework. Just 10 minutes a night," boasts junior Ellen Williams. "None of my teachers believe in homework this year." Junior Adam Erickson says he does about 30 minutes a night. "I'd like to learn," he says, "and someday I want to be a teacher, but I don't want to learn right now." Instead, he works 30 hours a week at Einstein's Bros Bagels and is in the drama production. "I got a B+ on your test without even reading the book," he boasts to Phillips, "because I just got the gist of the book from class discussion."

"Look, I'm sure all our teachers would like to challenge kids more," argues assistant principal Jon Clark. "But if you give

some of our lower-level kids a lot of homework, they aren't going to do it. And if they don't do it, they'll fail. And then they'll quit. We don't want that. We think these kids are better off in school than out on the streets. They're safe here, and they can learn in class even if they aren't doing homework." There is even a financial incentive. The school received an extra \$150,000 last year from Missouri's "A-Plus Schools" program,

whose primary goal is to reduce the dropout rate. Webster stands to receive the same amount for the next two years if it continues its progress.

The period is almost over, and Phillips is pressing the kids about the traditions around sweet-potato pie. And finally, just before the bell, she has the class precisely where she was heading all along: "There's a kind of sweetness surrounding it, and when I went to eat the other night in downtown St. Louis, what was I doing? I was returning to my roots, and I want you to remember about your roots when reading the story." The bell rings, and they all move on.

—N.G.

## 10:36 A.M. | FIRST LUNCH

### The tribes of Webster

**T**HE SLIGHTLY RAISED AREA DUE north of the entrance to the cafeteria is home to the Double '00 Hoes (the name's an inside joke—they define themselves by not sleeping around). All seniors, friends since sixth grade, mainly but not exclusively blond, involved in every sport, play and leadership group the school has, they are called "the Clique" by outsiders, who admit that the "Hoes" own the school. Most of them skip the school cheeseburgers and unpack a brown bag of fat-free Yoplait, a Nutri-Grain cereal bar, some carrots or an apple. Sometimes they splurge on an Otis Spunkmeyer cookie, which they divide among about 20 of them.

Today they are doing their regular Monday autopsy of the weekend, trying to figure out whether someone was wearing a thong under her toga at a party last Friday. When talk turns to college, most admit they haven't a clue where they're applying.

Lunchtime is the atomic age, when all

## Only a Bus Ride Away

9:10 A.M.

Three senior girls are gathered in the high school's "college center," a sort of one-stop shop for information about colleges that's stacked high with brochures and paraphernalia. Here a representative from Bradley University in Illinois is answering their questions about class size, dorm life, sports and admissions requirements, when Jenny Kettler pops a crucial query: "Can you bring a car to campus?" Answer: no, not as a freshman. But, the rep adds, "the good news is that there's a bus from St. Louis 365 days a year." The girls exhale a collective "Phew!" Says one: "That means we can come home whenever we want."



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

**UN-CLIQUE-ING** Maybe the trauma of losing four schoolmates last year is bringing the kids together

the groups split up and fan out, cluster at their tables or flee the school to the parking lot and the fast-food joints beyond, or settle into their regular spot in the school cafeteria, where everyone has a secret and nothing is hidden.

The most remarkable thing about the social warfare of Webster Groves is that there isn't much. There are clubs and tribes, unwritten dress codes and anxious social climbers who admit to their fear of being seen talking to the wrong person. And yet there is something almost diverse about the divisions: "It's very cliquish here," says junior Lauren Bell, "but each group is actually very mixed—it's not all the jocks, all the preps, all the punks, and I like that." Lauren sometimes considers herself an outsider, albeit a straight-A, cheerleading one. "You become a target, not really for looking different, but for thinking different from other people," she says, "like not caring about being popular. That is really asking for it."



Kids will point to money, more than race or looks or athletic ability, as the Great Divider. The guy with the coolest car does indeed get all the girls, but he's not the popular jock. He's a husky kid whom everyone calls the Commander, and the girls hang out at his house after school. "The girls love him," laments one jock. At some schools the

rumor is that athletes get special treatment, that they are able to slide by in their work or their conduct because even the teachers treat them like stars. To a degree, some Webster jocks take advantage of their status, but others argue that expectations are actually higher for them. "Teachers look at you differently when you play a sport," says soccer player Bo Biggs. "They want us to be role models." When he is late with an assignment or fools around in class, the response is, typically, "You're supposed to be a leader at this school. I expect more from you." Not all the high-profile athletes seem to feel the pressure, though. Karl Odenwald III, the fair-haired varsity quarterback, argues that "it's not as big a deal as people make it out to be." As for being a role model, "I don't go helping elderly people across the street."

Among the girls, the In sport is softball. Sarah Miller, whose friends call her the Doctor because she's an A student in all the hard classes, was awkward and unathletic as a freshman and learned that "the way to become part of the In crowd was to join a sport." Two of Sarah's best friends are Lisa Gilbert, a drum major in the band who may be valedictorian, and Ben Hudson, a black senior with a 2.9 GPA who works two jobs to help pay the bills at home.

Sarah sits near the soda machines, where she can watch the whole pageant roll by. On her far left are the "scared freshmen boys, the ones who haven't really come into their own yet." At the next table are some African-American boys, and next to them is a table of preppy sophomore and junior girls. To her far right sit the seniors,



1:30 P.M.

"Well I'm off the team," sighs sophomore Stacy Thrasher, emerging from cheerleading coach Gloria Smith's office, tears threatening her mascara-thick eyes. As other girls gather around, Stacy raises her T shirt, exposing a dime-size stone nestled inside her belly button. Coach

Smith, who spied the stone last week, ruled that body piercings are a health hazard and gave her the weekend to decide whether to take it out—or leave the squad. Stacy reckons she's got more invested in the navel ring than in being a cheerleader. "It's, like, my decision," she says, "even though it affects everyone on the team."



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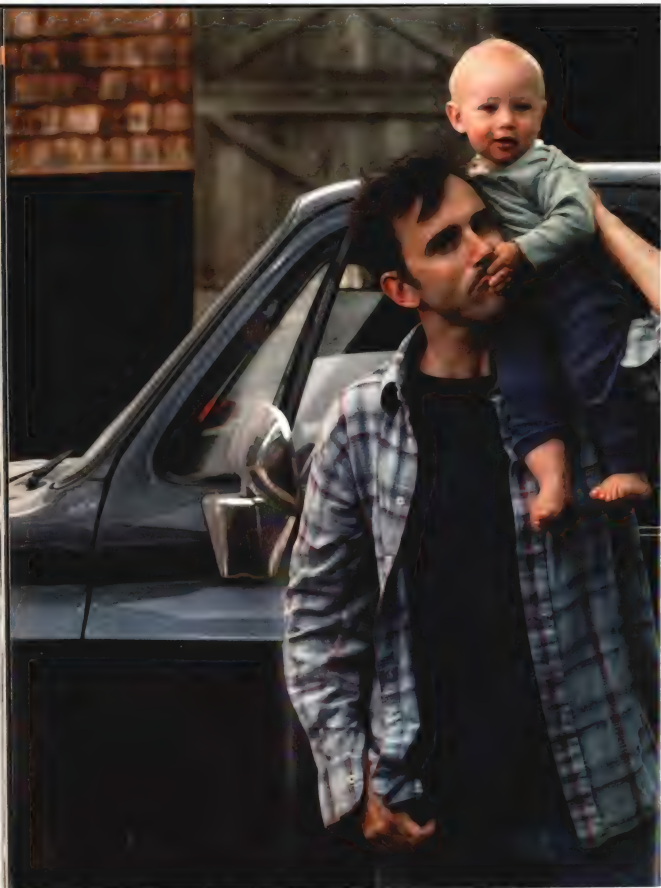
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## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

divided into the In crowd and the "in-between" crowd. ("They get to talk on the phone with the In crowd but are not invited to their parties.")

Despite being in calculus and advanced physics, Sarah distinguishes herself from "the computer children" or "the technology twerps." While she rarely drinks alcohol, her friends do; she's the permanent designated driver. Last Saturday one of her friends was reeling at a party, having drunk eight Purple Hooters. When the friend tried to leave, Sarah blocked the door. The next morning, between massive heaves, Sarah's friend said, "I'm sorry."

If there is almost a tenderness in evidence among many of the students, maybe less goading and cruelty than people have come to expect from this age, there are a couple of possible reasons. Many of these kids have known one another since grade school, and grown up in a tolerant time. Maybe Columbine taught them something, Maybe small-town, Midwestern kids are just nicer.

Or maybe it has to do with the fact that in the past year, four of their schoolmates and one of their favorite teachers have died ... —N.G.

7:30 P.M. | SCHOOL FINANCE

### The high price of civic pride

**T**HE WEBSTER GROVES BOARD OF Education is convening in the one-story school-district building tucked into the shadow of the high school. Had out-of-town visitors driven to that meeting by way of Elm Street, with its lovingly restored Victorian homes valued at as much as \$700,000, they might have assumed that the board's major task this evening was figuring out how best to invest all those tax revenues that must roll in from such a prosperous community. They would be wrong.

In fact, the Webster Groves public schools are facing a \$1.2 million deficit in their \$30 million annual operating budget, 80% of which goes to salaries and benefits. And the district faces millions of dollars in

deferred repairs on the high school building, which dates from 1907. A close inspection of Webster Groves beyond its wealthiest avenues reveals the reasons for the deficit. To the north and south are neighborhoods of modest, well-kept homes that sell for less than \$200,000 and bring in lower tax revenues. In short supply anywhere in town are land parcels given over to commercial or industrial taxpayers—testament to Webster's determination to pre-

which teachers refused to participate in after-school activities to protest their paltry pay scale, ended with a tentative agreement that earmarks \$5 million more for teacher salaries over the next three years.

Webster Groves' taxes, which pay three-quarters of the school's budget, are not that out of line with those of neighboring districts like Kirkwood or Clayton. (A 58-year-old, 5-bedroom home that sold recently for \$289,000 has an annual

property tax of \$2,914.) But because of the community's historic resistance to commercial development, and thus the limited options for raising new revenues, the board has little choice but to count on the district's voters to see them through to fiscal equilibrium.

To help with that effort, the board has recruited Rod Wright, president of Attitude Research, a St. Louis polling firm that specializes in school-finance votes. Fortunately for Webster, he has kids in local schools and donates his time.

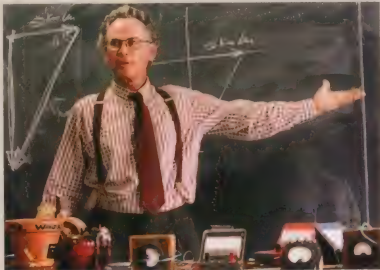
The goal, he advises the board, "is to get people to vote their emotions and aspirations—and not their pocketbooks."

As if to confirm that observation, one of a handful of parents attending the meeting, Peter Bakker, who has four daughters in the system, rises to urge the board not to settle for a tax increase that would only raise teacher's salaries slightly, but instead to "make Webster one of the best."

That is becoming tougher and tougher to do, acknowledge Wright and others close to the school-financing issue. Caught in the nationwide movement to induce equity in school funding (state aid is capped at 1992-93 levels), the district is also hampered because Missouri requires a supermajority 4-out-of-7 vote on all school bond proposals. Then there are the unfunded government mandates, like the Americans with Disabilities Act, which forced Webster Groves to spend more than \$1 million in the past three years on compliance.

Still, Wright is optimistic. "The city has a history of backing these things when they're needed," he says. We benefit from having a population capable of paying higher taxes. In a lot of other places, people have a hard time making ends meet."

—By Barrett Seaman



**PHILLIP WOJAK** Average salaries for Webster Groves teachers such as Phillip Wojak (physics) are lower than the county average

serve its residential character, and a big reason why property-tax revenue is relatively low and taxes are relatively high. "We missed the boat in the '50s and '60s, when we had a chance to annex some adjoining communities and develop them commercially," says Brian McLain, who runs a Webster real estate agency.

The main issue before the board this evening is how to sell voters on even higher taxes. The superintendent, Bill Gussner, wants to ask residents in April for approval to borrow some \$10 million, by issuing new bonds, to repair leaky roofs and antiquated heating systems. But he also wants to collect more than 50¢ per \$100 valuation in new tax levies, most of which would go to raise the pay of the district's 292 teachers.

There is not much difference of opinion in Webster Groves over whether teachers deserve more money. At \$42,400, their average pay is slightly lower than the St. Louis County average. But it's notably below that of peer schools in some other suburbs in the county, which are luring some of the best teachers and prospects away from Webster. Just a month ago, a 14-day job action, in



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## Tuesday

7:33 A.M. | THE AUTO SHOP

### Among the engines, lessons about life

**S**ENIOR JOE BRUSSEL, WITH HIS purple Burton backpack slung over his right shoulder, cell phone clipped to his tan cargo shorts, strolls into Frank Mandernach's advanced auto-mechanics class—late but relaxed. The rest of the class is already in the lab room, watching a student take apart a 1987 truck engine. Joe makes eye contact with Mandernach, settles into a chair out of sight of most of his classmates and pulls out a notebook. "Sometimes Mandernach just lets us get organized," he says. For the rest of the period, Joe stays to himself, his mind far away from cars and engines. Mandernach keeps an eye on Joe, but today he's decided to give the boy some space.

The auto shop at Webster Groves, once

**IN ANOTHER WORLD:** While his classmates are busy taking notes in English class, senior Joe Brussel's mind drifts elsewhere

seen as the dumping ground for bottom-end students, is more popular than ever, and most students taking shop today aren't interested in becoming mechanics or engineers. Students of all abilities—mostly boys but a growing number of girls too—flock to this faraway corner of the school in search of less structure and more responsibility, a place where they get to move around and use their hands. "In a lot of classes, it's 'Do this' or 'Do that,'" says Joe, "but in auto shop you know what you need to do when you come in here, so you get it done yourself."

Three large garage doors lead into the shop, which even when empty, looks like a fully functioning engine and detail center. Just inside, propped on cement blocks, is a rusted, formerly red 1979 Jeep Cherokee, used to teach bodywork. In the back of the shop, huge wooden slabs, stained by oil and grease, lie on top of old gym lockers, creating the lab space where students learn engine anatomy. All sorts of auto parts fill the shelves and remaining floor space. "All this stuff is just tools," says Mandernach, looking around his shop, "tools to motivate kids."

Three years ago, Mandernach, as Joe's freshman-year academic lab instructor, saw Joe the way his other teachers did—angry, ready to fight even at the slightest challenge, and irresponsible. "He had a small-man problem," says Mandernach. Joe weighed only 80 lbs. in his freshman year, and even now, with short brown hair, smooth face and dimples, he looks more like a freshman than a senior. "Joey's such a sweet kid," says his mother Debbie Deimeke, who divorced Joe's father when Joe was six, "but inside he's got all this pent-up anger."

It took a year of fighting on a near daily basis, but Joe finally found in Mandernach a man he could trust. He took Mandernach's power technology class in his sophomore year and thrived. Junior year he arranged his schedule to be with Mandernach for a remarkable three hours a day: in auto lab, auto mechanics and as a student assistant. His academic teachers began to see less antagonism. Joe was finally getting his high school life under control.

Then, on July 25, 1998, Joe's 18-year-old sister Erica was killed by a drunk driver.

During the first school day after his sister's death, Joe came to the auto shop. Mandernach, unprompted, said, "If you need



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## BRIEF SUMMARY

**ESTROGENS INCREASE THE RISK OF ENDOMETRIAL CARCINOMA.** Close clinical surveillance of all women taking estrogens is important. Adequate diagnostic measures, including endometrial sampling when indicated, should be undertaken to rule out malignancy in all cases of undiagnosed persistent or recurring abnormal vaginal bleeding. There is no evidence that natural estrogens are more or less hazardous than synthetic estrogens at equivalent estrogen doses.

## INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Genestin (synthetic conjugated estrogens, A) Tablets are indicated in the treatment of moderate-to-severe vasomotor symptoms associated with the menopause.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Estrogens should not be used in individuals with any of the following conditions:
- Known or suspected pregnancy (see **PRECAUTIONS**).
  - Undiagnosed abnormal genital bleeding.
  - Known or suspected cancer of the breast (except in appropriately selected patients being treated for metastatic disease).
  - Known or suspected estrogen-dependent neoplasia.
  - Active thrombophlebitis or thromboembolic disorders.

## WARNINGS

- Induction of malignant neoplasms.**
  - Endometrial cancer.** The reported endometrial cancer risk among unopposed estrogen users is about 2- to 12-fold greater than in non-users, and appears dependent on duration of treatment and on estrogen dose. Most studies show no significant increased risk associated with use of estrogens for less than one year. The greatest risk appears associated with prolonged use, with increased risks of 15 to 24-fold for five to ten years or more, and this risk has been shown to persist for at least 8-15 years after estrogen therapy is discontinued.
  - Breast cancer.** While the majority of studies have not shown an increased risk of breast cancer in women who have ever used estrogen replacement therapy, there are conflicting data whether there is an increased risk in women using estrogens for prolonged periods of time, especially in excess of 10 years.
- Venous thromboembolism.** Three epidemiologic studies have found an increased risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) in users of estrogen replacement therapy (ERT) who did not have predisposing conditions for VTE, such as past history of cardiovascular disease or a recent history of pregnancy, surgery, trauma, or serious illness. The increased risk was found only in current ERT users; it did not persist in former users. The findings were similar for ERT alone or with added progestin and pertained to commonly used ERT types and doses, including 0.625 mg or more per day orally of conjugated estrogens, 1 mg or more per day orally of estradiol, and 50 µg or more per day of transdermal estradiol. The studies found the VTE risk to be about one case per 10,000 women per year among women not using ERT and without predisposing conditions. The risk in current ERT users was increased to 2-3 cases per 10,000 women per year.
- Cardiovascular disease.** Large doses of estrogen (5 mg conjugated estrogens per day, comparable to those used to treat cancer of the prostate and breast, have been shown in a large prospective clinical trial in men to increase the risks of nonfatal myocardial infarction, pulmonary embolism, and thrombotic events.
- Hypertension.** Administration of estrogens may lead to severe hypertension in patients with breast cancer and bone metastases. If this occurs, the drug should be stopped and appropriate measures taken to reduce the serum calcium level.
- Gallbladder disease.** A 2- to 4-fold increase in the risk of gallbladder disease requiring surgery in women receiving postmenopausal estrogens has been reported.

## PRECAUTIONS

### A. General

- Addition of a progestin when a woman has not had a hysterectomy.** Studies of the addition of a progestin for 10 or more days of a cycle of estrogen administration, or daily with estrogens in a continuous regimen, have reported a lowered incidence of endometrial hyperplasia than would be induced by estrogen treatment alone. There are, however, possible risks which may be associated with the use of progestins in estrogen replacement regimens. These include:
  - (a) adverse effects on lipoprotein metabolism (lowering HDL and raising LDL);
  - (b) impairment of glucose tolerance; and
  - (c) possible enhancement of mitotic activity in breast epithelial tissue, although few epidemiological data are available to address the point.
 The choice of progestin, its dose, and its regimen may be important in minimizing these adverse effects.

### 2. Elevated blood pressure

Substantial increases in blood pressure during estrogen replacement therapy have been attributed to idiosyncratic reactions to estrogens in a small number of case reports. A generalized effect of estrogen therapy on blood pressure was not found in the one randomized, placebo-controlled study that has been reported.

### 3. Familial hyperproliferation

Estrogen therapy may be associated with elevations of plasma triglycerides leading to pancreatitis and other complications in patients with familial defects of lipoprotein metabolism.

### 4. Impaired liver function

Estrogens may be poorly metabolized in patients with impaired liver function.

### B. Information for the Patient

See section on **PATIENT LABELING** below.

### C. Laboratory Tests

Estrogen administration should generally be guided by clinical response at the smallest dose, rather than laboratory monitoring, for relief of symptoms for those indications in which symptoms are observable.

### D. Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions

1. Accelerated prothrombin time, partial thromboplastin time, and platelet aggregation time, increased platelet count, increased factors II, VII, antigen, VIII antigen, VIII coagulant activity, IX, X, XII, VII-X complex, X-VIII-X complex, and beta-thromboglobulin decreased levels of anti-factor Xa and antithrombin III, decreased antithrombin III activity, increased levels of fibrinogen and fibrinogen activity, increased plasminogen antigen and activity.

2. Increased thyroid-binding globulin (TBG) leading to increased or decreased total thyroid function, as measured by protein-bound iodine (PBI), T4 levels (by column or by radioimmunoassay) or T3 levels by radioimmunoassay. T3 resin uptake is decreased, reflecting the elevated TBG. Free T4 and free T3 concentrations are unaffected.

3. Other binding proteins may be elevated in serum, i.e., corticosteroid-binding globulin (CBG), sex hormone-binding globulin (SHBG) leading to increased circulating corticosteroids and sex steroids respectively. Free or biologically active hormone concentrations are unchanged. Other plasma proteins may be increased (angiotensinogen, serum albumin, alpha-1-antitrypsin, orosomucoid).

4. Increased plasma HDL and HDL-2 subfraction concentrations, reduced LDL cholesterol concentration, increased triglyceride levels.

5. Impaired glucose tolerance.

6. Reduced response to metoprolol test.

7. Reduced serum folate concentration.

### E. Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility

Long-term continuous administration of natural and synthetic estrogens in certain animal species increases the frequency of carcinomas of the breast, uterus, cervix, vagina, testis, and liver. See **CONTRAINDICATIONS AND WARNINGS**.

### F. Pregnancy

Estrogens are not indicated for use during pregnancy or the immediate postpartum period. Estrogens are ineffective for the prevention or treatment of threatened or habitual abortion. Treatment with diethylstilbestrol (DES) during pregnancy has been associated with an increased risk of congenital defects and cancer in the reproductive organs of the fetus, and possibly other birth defects. The use of DES during pregnancy has also been associated with a subsequent increased risk of breast cancer in the mothers.

### G. Nursing Mothers

As a general principle, the administration of any drug to nursing mothers should be done only when clearly necessary since many drugs are excreted in human milk. In addition, estrogen administration to nursing mothers has been shown to decrease the quantity and quality of the milk. Estrogens are not indicated for the prevention of postpartum breast engorgement.

### H. Pediatric Use

Safety and efficacy of Genestin for the treatment of vasomotor symptoms due to hypoestrogenism in pediatric patients have not been established.

### I. Drug-Drug Interactions

There are no known drug interactions with estrogens.

## ADVERSE REACTIONS

See **WARNINGS** and **PRECAUTIONS** regarding the potential adverse effects on the fetus. The induction of malignant neoplasms, gallbladder disease, cardiovascular disease, elevated blood pressure and hypertension, in a 12-week clinical trial that included 72 women treated with Genestin and 48 women treated with placebo, the following adverse events occurred at a rate  $\geq 5\%$  use **TABLE 1**.

The following additional adverse reactions have been reported with estrogen therapy:

- Genitourinary system: Changes in vaginal bleeding pattern and abnormal uterine bleeding or flow, breakthrough bleeding, spotting, increase in size of uterine leiomyoma, vaginal candidiasis, change in amount of cervical secretion.
- Breasts: Tenderness, enlargement.
- Gastrointestinal: Nausea, swelling, abdominal cramps, bloating, cholelithiasis, cholecystitis, gallbladder disease.
- Skin: Chloasma or melasma. There may be periods when drug is discontinued: erythema multiforme, erythema nodosum, hemorrhagic eruption, loss of scalp hair, hirsutism.
- Eyes: Swallowing of contact lenses, interference to contact lenses.
- Central Nervous System: Headache, migraine, dizziness, mental depression, chorea.
- Musculoskeletal: Increase or decrease in weight, reduced carbohydrate tolerance, aggravation or porphyria, edema, changes in libido.

**Table 1**  
Number (%) of Patients with Adverse Events With a Greater than 5% Occurrence Rate by Body System and Treatment Group

Body System	Genestin n (%)	Placebo n (%)	Total n (%)
<b>Adverse Event</b>			
Number of Patients Who Received Medication	72 (100)	48 (100)	120 (100)
Number of Patients With Adverse Events	68 (94)	43 (90)	111 (93)
Number of Patients Without Any Adverse Events	4 (6)	5 (10)	9 (8)
<b>Body As A Whole</b>			
Abdominal Pain	20 (28)	11 (23)	31 (26)
Asthenia	24 (33)	20 (42)	44 (37)
Back Pain	10 (14)	6 (13)	16 (13)
Fever	1 (1)	3 (6)	4 (3)
Headache	40 (56)	32 (67)	72 (60)
Infection	10 (14)	5 (10)	15 (13)
Pain	8 (11)	9 (19)	17 (14)
<b>Cardiovascular System</b>			
Palpitation	15 (21)	13 (27)	28 (23)
<b>Digestive System</b>			
Constipation	4 (6)	2 (4)	6 (5)
Diarrhea	4 (6)	0 (0)	4 (3)
Dyspepsia	2 (3)	3 (6)	5 (4)
Flatulence	21 (29)	14 (29)	35 (29)
Nausea	13 (18)	9 (19)	22 (18)
Vomiting	5 (7)	1 (2)	6 (5)
<b>Metabolic and Nutritional</b>			
Peripheral Edema	7 (10)	6 (13)	13 (11)
<b>Musculoskeletal System</b>			
Arthralgia	18 (25)	13 (27)	31 (26)
Myalgia	20 (28)	15 (31)	35 (29)
<b>Nervous System</b>			
Depression	20 (28)	18 (38)	38 (32)
Dizziness	8 (11)	5 (10)	13 (11)
Hypertonia	4 (6)	0 (0)	4 (3)
Insomnia	30 (42)	23 (48)	53 (44)
Lag Cramps	7 (10)	3 (6)	10 (8)
Nervousness	20 (28)	20 (42)	40 (33)
Paresthesia	24 (33)	15 (31)	39 (33)
Vertigo	12 (17)	12 (25)	24 (20)
<b>Respiratory System</b>			
Cough Increased	4 (6)	1 (2)	5 (4)
Pharyngitis	6 (8)	4 (8)	10 (8)
Rhinitis	6 (8)	7 (15)	13 (11)
<b>Urogenital System</b>			
Breast Pain	21 (29)	7 (15)	28 (23)
Dysmenorrhea	4 (6)	3 (6)	7 (6)
Metrorrhagia	10 (14)	3 (6)	13 (11)

**OVERDOSEAGE**  
Severe adverse effects have not been reported following acute ingestion of large doses of estrogen-containing products by young children. Overdose of estrogen may cause nausea and vomiting, and withdrawal bleeding may occur in females.

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# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

somebody to just listen, I'm always here." Joe wasn't talking much to anybody, but sometimes he came in and told Mandernach that he needed some time. Joe would sit in his car, and Mandernach, if he could get class coverage, would slip out and check on him.

Joe spent his time in the shop working on his grandmother's busted boat engine. But the grief was taking a toll. After a few months, Joe started to miss school regularly, and he fell far behind in his classes. A top player on Webster's red-hot hockey team, he started fighting with his teammates. He was absent so many times he didn't get the 2.5 credits he needed to be eligible to play hockey this year.

The start of this year, though, was different. "Last year I didn't want to be here," says Joe. "But this year is not so bad. I like it. I've changed." His grades are up, he's doing his homework, and he's been absent only once. He's been coming to hockey practice, hoping that an appeal to the eligibility board will let him rejoin the team. Faye Walker, the Suspension Lady, who saw Joe as a "terror" his freshman year, sees real growth: "Now he knows where he wants to go and who he wants to be." It's Joe's last year in auto shop, and Mandernach doesn't mind letting him tune out every now and then. He, more than anyone, knows how far Joe has come.

—By Andrew Goldstein



**TECH** In an age obsessed with computers, says David Mendelson, "my concern is teaching critical-thinking skills"

will not write her name down." A protesting murmur arises at this denial of credit. Mendelson responds delightedly: "Do you think I'm some sort of a slut?" Another student takes a shot: "How you love the people who have conquered you?" Again the teacher demurs. "I'm talking about how the villagers at first reject Hester, but later on their opinion changes. Carl?" Carl, seemingly asleep in the back of the class, asks, "You talking about Muhammad Ali?" Mendelson, a carnivore spotting its prey: "What does the villagers' treatment of Hester have to do with our treatment of Muhammad Ali?"

"Well, I guess he was different at first, but later on they realized what he did, how it was good..." A girl named Ellen picks up: "Once people prove they can win, they're all glorified." "Close," prods Mendelson. Another girl administers the coup de grace: "Muhammad Ali, the farther he got into Parkinson's—now he's harmless, and so they're not afraid of him anymore. He's like a Hester now that she's a good girl." Mendelson, triumphant: "Once an enemy of society has been defeated, we can embrace them and call her cute little Hester, cute little Muhammad Ali. They don't pose a threat. You know what Joe Frazier said about Muhammad Ali? When he saw him lighting the Olympic torch, he said they should have pushed him in. People thought Frazier was being callous about Ali's suffering. But Joe Frazier respects Muhammad Ali as a warrior. You can't condescend to him; he's not a puppy or something. Show some respect."

The class nods knowingly. Hester and

Ali, Ali and Hester. Whether in years to come they will share Mendelson's disdain for the easy sentimentality, they at least stand a chance of recognizing it.

He turns to his grade book. "I need a sturdier implement to add all this extra credit."

—David Van Biema

## U.S. STUDIES

### Hester Prynne, meet Muhammad Ali

**T**HE TOPIC IS HAWTHORNE'S *The Scarlet Letter*. Even the avid students in this honors U.S. studies class are drowsy. They have just watched a jolly but interminable student video about the colonial South, and English teacher David Mendelson sympathizes with their plight: "I feel like my brain has been sandpapered."

If so, it has attained a fine finish. Over the next 50 minutes, Mendelson, a gangly man with a Dead Poets passion, alights on the distinctions between the Puritan, Enlightenment and Romantic mind-sets; Pascal's wager over the existence of God; his (Mendelson's) sister; the unreliable narrator; and, of course, Muhammad Ali.

"For those of you who are still awake, let me offer you a slight bit of extra credit. In their treatment of Hester, the villagers of Boston are showing what historical tendency that I told you about on the very first day of class?" Hands raise. "I think I will let Erica take it."

"The Knights of the Round Table, how they glorified their past?" suggests the girl tentatively. "Not bad, Erica. However, I

## SENIOR SEMINAR

### And what was that about college?

**H**OW MANY OF YOU ARE NOT PLANNING on going to college?" asks David Cady to the 61 seniors in his senior leadership seminar. No hands go up. Cady, who plans on having his class begin to fill out college applications next week, knows this is the first discussion of college many of these seniors have had this year. "How many have taken either the SAT or the ACT?" Fewer than half raise their hands. "How many of you have been to our career library?" Five hands go up.

Cady knows he's got a lot of work to do. A goal of his class, he says, is to help students make more informed decisions as they leave high school. "We're trying to help kids get their act together," says Cady. "We want to help them prepare for the next step in their lives." This includes not just college but also "alternative enrichment" options. At last week's open house, Cady told parents he thinks too many kids go to college for no particular reason, then drop out. He wants kids to know there are alternatives, such as hiking the Appalachian Trail or joining AmeriCorps.

Up at the blackboard, Cady divides four-year colleges into three groups: competitive colleges, including those in the Ivy League;



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less competitive ones, among which he includes the private, local St. Louis and Washington universities; and state universities, such as Missouri and Truman State. "You need to have a conversation with your parents about what you can afford," Cady tells them. So, next to his competitive and less competitive lists, he writes \$30,000. "And this would be just for tuition." Next to Truman State, he writes \$8,000 and calls it "the best value in Missouri." At Truman, he adds, "you'll find Missouri people. If you go to a competitive college like an Ivy League school, you'll probably be with elitist people."

Later in the week Cady plans to have the class play the "decision game" to help the students explore both college and non-college possibilities. —A.G.

### 11:10 AM | SCHOOL SPIRIT

## All our heroes are created equal

*On with Webster. On with Webster.  
Fight on for your fame.  
Fight, Statesmen, fight,  
And you will win the game.*  
—W.G.H.S. fight song

**T**HE BLEACHERS VIBRATE, AND THE floors shake under the feet of 1,200 stomping, screaming kids crammed into the gym for a late-morning pep rally. They're celebrating the first winning football season in years—and the more immediate promise of an early release from school on this perfect fall afternoon. It is at once a moment of old-fashioned ebullience for students and unspoken, post-Columbine worry for teachers and staff. Principal Voss paces the floor with her walkie-talkie. Scores of teachers and student monitors are assigned sections of the gym, alert to everything from fights to the booing of freshmen, a long-standing tradition that has been banned this year as part of the campaign against factionalism. Also gone is the ritual of announcing entire team rosters during the pep rally. Administrators don't want to turn an otherwise popular jock into a target of the disaffected. Says Cliff Ice, the new football coach: "We don't want the players to be perceived around the school as something special."

Yet there's a limit to the school's influence. Key Club and Math Club have no pep rally, and student athletes are still celebrities among their peers. They're the ones who bring the parents to the stands on Friday nights. They get their names in the newspaper and get more pictures in the







**STAR QUALITY:** Bobby Granderson is one of the most likable guys in school; the girls scream his name

yearbook. Nearly every Thanksgiving since 1907, Turkey Day has capped the football season for Webster and nearby Kirkwood, drawing 7,000 fans and a large local TV audience for what's billed as the oldest high school football rivalry west of the Mississippi. (Webster leads, with 46 wins to Kirkwood's 33.)

Though the school may have stopped naming all the players in the pep rally, there are still raucous introductions for the few who are called to the floor for today's toilet-paper race, in which the players mummify their coaches. Among the loudest cheers are those for one football player, Bobby Granderson.

He's 18, a senior known as Bee Gee. He grew up in North Webster, the district's predominantly black neighborhood. His father is a supermarket produce manager; his stepmother works at a department store. Bobby once worked at the Gap after school, but with chiseled good looks and at 6 ft. 2 in. and 195 lbs., he looked as if he should be posing in the clothing chain's ads, not restocking its shelves. He has an ability to seduce both kids and adults. When he works as an aide in the principal's office, visitors often just stare at him.

Bobby carries his charm onto the floor of the gym as he passes out a rose to each member of the girls' softball team, whose coach has recently died. Then he strolls over to principal Voss and hands her a bouquet. When the pep rally ends and school is dismissed early for the day, Bobby passes a freshman sitting on the steps outside. He says, "Hey," and waves. To be recognized by a jock like Bobby is a big deal to the kid, who beams. It is part of Bobby's charm. It brings him fame. Bobby climbs into a friend's Oldsmobile, with a large speaker blaring rap music in the backseat. They're going to a drive-in for chili dogs and draft root beer. As the car pulls away from the school, Bobby reaches under his seat and lights a Marlboro. You gotta do more than play football to be cool nowadays. Unfortunately, he knows it. —By Timothy Roche

12:45 P.M. | **FACULTY MEETING**

## Always preparing for the worst

**T**WO STUDENTS APPROACH AN ASSISTANT principal and say a girl has brought a gun to school because she wants to scare a boy who continues to sexually harass her. The girl is in a class on the third floor, the student who may have been harassing her is not in this class, and the bell to change classes will ring in 15 minutes. What do you do?



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The pep rally is over, and about 90 of Webster's teachers and administrators are in the library talking about two of the school's top priorities: keeping students in school—and keeping them alive. The "girl with a gun" scenario is part of an exercise in crisis management—and is based on an incident that happened at the school five years ago. Teachers split into groups of nine to draft a response to various emergencies.

"A phone caller says a bomb will explode somewhere in the school at 10 a.m. It is now 9:30. The person calling sounded like a teenage male, and it sounded as if two other teens were laughing in the background. The caller hung up before giving any other information. There is a trace on the call, and police are investigating. This investigation will take more than half an hour."

A team in the northeast corner has been assigned the bomb threat, which actually happened more than a year ago. The school was evacuated, but search dogs found no bomb. Police did, however, catch the boys who called in the threat, one a Webster student, who was expelled. It gets the teachers talking about security in general—and Columbine in particular. "The bombs at Columbine were planted beforehand, at night, when there wouldn't be any witnesses," says Ken Wingham, who teaches psychology. "Our school is wide open at night. If you want to plant a bomb here, you can." But the team can't agree on any new restrictions on access. They suggest the school install a caller-ID system, but principal Voss says it would cost "a full teacher's salary for a year."

Instead, this very day, phone technicians are installing equipment that will make it easier to trace calls coming in to Webster High. Earlier in the day, Voss asked the school's maintenance chief, Frank Schaffer, to post two employees on the roof whenever the school has a crisis evacuation or drill. "I'm worried about that situation in Jonesboro, where the kids with guns shot the other kids as they were leaving the building for a fire drill," she said. "It would be good to have someone on the roof to make sure it's safe to leave."

As for the overpreoccupation, keeping students in school, the teachers know how much pressure the administration is under. Last year Webster Groves received \$150,000 in extra funds from Missouri's A-Plus pro-



**4:15 P.M.** After the pep rally and a staff meeting, teachers take on the girls' junior-varsity softball team. At the bottom of the fifth inning, a cold front sweeps across the Midwest almost as suddenly as a pick-off to first base. Wind gusts shower spectators in

the bleachers with snot as the faculty gets carried away with itself. "Our team plays softball," faculty members chant. "Your team needs Geritol." It sounds funny coming from teachers spoken to kids. But, hey, the teachers earn their bragging rights. They win, 9-4.

gram, whose top goal is to reduce the dropout rate. Webster's rate has declined from 3.9% to 1.3% over the past five years, but needs to stay down to keep the state funds flowing. So the school has compiled a list of 150 students considered highly "at risk" of quitting, and is targeting them for extra attention. Everyone agrees that this effort is admirable—and necessary, given the school's \$1.2 million budget deficit. But there is no discussion here of teachers' private complaints: that one result of the focus on keeping 150 kids from dropping out is a lowering of standards and expectations, not only for them but for all the other 1,180 students.

—D.G.

### 1:20 P.M. | AT THE PARTY

#### Never too young for a beer buzz or a smoke

**W**ITH SCHOOL OUT EARLY, ABOUT 50 kids gather in the backyard of the home of a sophomore. There's talk of a keg in the basement, and a steady stream of hopefuls goes downstairs to check it out. They return, disappointed that there's no keg but sporting Cokes spiked with bourbon. There's more smoke in the air than in a New York City bar, and not all of it

comes from cigarettes. In a corner of the yard, three kids are smoking marijuana.

The timing of this Tuesday bash is unusual, but the scene isn't. Student parties are a weekend staple in Webster Groves, and along with them come the vices all parents dread. Only a fraction of the students experiment with Ecstasy or LSD, but they do drink. "Basically, a lot of people think there's nothing else to do but drink," says senior Adam Wise.

Outside the realm of adult supervision, the kids have set their own standards for acceptable drinking behavior. A student who says his father is an alcoholic doesn't worry about his own drinking because "I don't drink when others don't drink. If you drink by yourself, that's different." He has no problem finding drinking buddies. Even without a fake ID, it's not hard to get cigarettes or a six-pack. "Everybody has older siblings, and everybody has older friends, so they can go and get it for them," says Detective Dave Dreher.

The police are quick to break up teen parties in Webster. The last time this sophomore threw a party, the police showed up twice, and there's concern they will show up today if guests drink out in the open. Even worse, under an ordinance passed last year, parents can be held responsible for their kids' hospitality. As part of a crackdown, adults whose children throw unsupervised parties



are issued a warning letter by police. A second offense can mean a summons and a fine.

The school has little control over what students do off campus. But because tobacco smoke can disguise marijuana and is a threat to safety and health, Webster Groves High is smoke-free. "Only six years ago, we allowed smoking right on campus," says assistant principal John Raimondo. Before the days of walkie-talkies, says sophomore Justin Mahley, his brothers' friends smoked bong bowls of marijuana in the courtyard. But, he says, "they don't let anything slide anymore."

Lunch is one of the few outlets left. A senior who has smoked almost daily since freshman year keeps a bong in his car, which has marijuana seeds scattered all

over it. During the 27 minutes he has to drive to Burger King and back, he gets high. "It makes school more interesting," he says. He notes that he's lost his ambition over the years, though he doesn't know why.

Booze, however, is Webster's bogeyman. "The majority of kids go out and go drinking and then go home," says Raimondo. "It puts them at risk for auto accidents and bad choices." Every two years the school stages a brutally realistic drunk-driving accident for 11th- and 12th-graders. Right outside, two cars are smashed together, and five "bloodied" students are put inside. Two of them are said to be dead at the scene, and a third must be extricated by firemen wielding metal cutters while a helicopter stands by. The scene always has a chilling effect on students.

But it lasts for only a short time. Even the real-life deaths in the past two years of four students—one of whom, Erica Brus-

sel, was killed by a drunk driver—haven't stopped students from putting themselves at risk. "Sometimes it makes more sense when you're really drunk to get into a car with someone who isn't as drunk," says a sophomore. After a party last Saturday night, that's exactly what she did. "I think a lot of times people are more concerned with having fun than their safety," she says.

With many parents working, it is hard for them to monitor their children. Unless they forbid their kids to go out with friends, parents must rely on trust. "I feel that if [my son] hasn't learned the proper values by 16, then we haven't done our job," says a mother. Sometimes it is easier to simply avoid a confrontation. "Usually my parents ask me where I'm going, and I say, 'Out,'"

Groves Statesmen choose their videos, their meals, their gas and their clothes carefully, because they know the chances are good they will be served by a schoolmate. These days being 16 in Webster Groves typically means a car and a job, mixing up to 40 hours a week at work into the already delicate balance of school, friends and family. Some students work to save for college or to help their parents pay the bills, but most do it for cars, insurance and clothes. "Working lets me establish my independence," says senior Nick McCormick, who, somewhere between varsity-football practice and homework, makes pizza at Cecil Whittaker's three nights a week. "And I'm saving up to buy a car." Teachers and parents here recognize the value of introducing kids to the "real world," but with paychecks competing with grades and late-night shifts rivaling term-paper deadlines, more and more students are asking, How many hours are too many?

Not seeing any more customers, Elizabeth grabs an armful of freshly returned cassettes and begins to stow them. "Putting the videos away is so monotonous," she says. But she is making \$5.90 an hour and claims her work here "is really easy." Between Hollywood Video and nearby Kraus Farms Equestrian Center, where she teaches horseback riding, Elizabeth works 40 hours a week. This year she plans to earn \$14,400—nearly what her mother makes as a bank teller.

Most weekdays, Elizabeth starts work at 3 p.m. and is finished by 8. On Saturdays she puts in 11 hours at Kraus Farms, a job she keeps as much to ride horses as to earn extra cash. Sunday is her "hell day": she starts at Kraus Farms at 8 a.m., teaches until 5 p.m., grabs some food, drives to Hollywood Video and works there from 6 until 11 p.m. "I'm sure I'm sacrificing my health," Elizabeth says, "but I'm actually doing better in school than I ever have."

says a senior. "If they keep badgering me, I say I'm going out to get drunk. They think it's very funny, but I'm not joking with them."

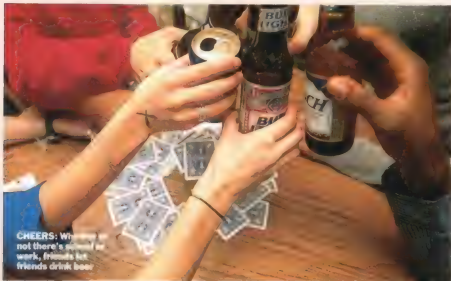
—By Flora Tartakovsky

## 3:30 P.M. | ON THE JOB

### Taking care of business?

**A**S WEBSTER GROVES SENIOR ROB Greenhaw reaches the Hollywood Video cash register, he recognizes classmate Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, fancied up in her white-ruffled tuxedo shirt, black patterned vest, and bow tie. Rob hands his video selection to Elizabeth, who scans it in, smiles and asks mischievously, "Simon Birch?" Rob, defensively, replies, "It's supposed to be good."

Once the school day ends, Webster





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that she has to "check her schedule" before penciling in time for her equally over-extended friends. This afternoon six of them met for lunch and went thrift-store shopping. But an hour into the outing, people started peeling off for other commitments.

Most of these seniors have a room of their own at school: No. 216. Anne and many of her friends are members of the school's selective Pegasus program, an accelerated English class with about 25 students per grade. To be admitted, candidates send in a portfolio prior to their freshman year; entries range from stamp collections to Boy Scout badges to Anne's video of one of her theater performances. Since theirs is a four-year course of study, the Pegasites, as they are known, often travel in a pack. And you'll more likely find them rehearsing the National Honor Society barbecue than last weekend's parties. "It can be a very bright and interesting group," says its co-coordinator Bob Hutcheson. "But it's a group with its own set of problems, like when failure is getting just an 80 on a test."

Pegasite intensity spikes at college-application time. The Zagers' dining room has been turned into a college war room, draped from top to bottom with brochures from schools like Syracuse University and the University of Colorado at Boulder and a poster-size chart drawn by Anne that lists 14 schools broken down into 22 categories such as class size and distance from home.

Nearby sits a CD-ROM SAT study aid, Emergency Prep.

Anne's parents are worried she'll burn out before her high school graduation. "Her mind is so strong, I don't think her body can keep up," says her father Ron. This was literally true for fellow Pegasite Amy Cook, who edits the school newspaper, has a 4.08 GPA and works 12 hours a week at a nursing home. By the middle of last year she was developing an ulcer that her doctor attributed to school stress. ("The doctor told us, 'Congratulations, I think you've got a budding college professor on your hands,'" recalls her father.) Now taking medicine for her stomach, Amy has scaled back on some activities and traded in her daily three cups of coffee for tea. Her parents ask that she log four hours a week of relaxation in front of the TV.



**11:00 P.M. Anne makes room for rehearsals in her busy class schedule**

to do," he explains. "But I'm always tired."

Fatigue and missed assignments aren't the worst of it, either, says Faye Walker, a teacher at Webster for 23 years. "Too many kids are missing that quality time," she says. "When the parent gets home, the child goes to work. When the child gets home, the parents are asleep. Kids can work and get good grades, but when do you see each other?"

Clark is looking for an answer. He sits on a committee of teachers, students, parents, community leaders and local employers that is developing a "School First" contract. The details are still in the works, but the hope is that businesses that sign on will employ students for no more than 20 hours a week (Clark would like the limit to be 16) and will not let students work past 11 p.m. on school nights. Clark also wants employers to assign each student a "workplace mentor"—someone at work, maybe even the boss, who looks after the student's academic life, makes sure he or she is going to school on time and is making good grades, and who can help a student get reduced hours if needed. The initial response of business people has been positive, and Clark hopes School First will happen by the end of the year.

Elizabeth manages her 40 hours a week quite nicely. She's getting A's in all her classes; she keeps Friday nights free for her boyfriend, who, she says, "is my social life." And most Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, Elizabeth, her parents and her 12-year-old brother Conner find time to eat together as a family.

Elizabeth did have to sacrifice varsity field hockey. And earning so much money made her, at least for a while, rethink her college choices. While she once saw Mer-

**11:00 P.M. At \$5.90 an hour, it will take Elizabeth Kirkpatrick only 220 hours at Hollywood Video to buy that \$1,300 stereo**

amec Community College as the "slacker way out," she actually considered spending two years of college there in order to continue teaching horseback riding. Her mother convinced her otherwise.

It's 8 p.m. Elizabeth hangs up her vest and bow tie. She's already finished her homework, so after dinner with her family, she plans to go to a friend's to watch movies and play video games. She's not sure what she would have done all day if she hadn't spent it working at Hollywood Video. —A.C.

## 11:00 P.M. | THE LONGEST DAY

### Being an overachiever means little time for sleep

**M**ORE THAN 19 HOURS AFTER it began, senior Anne Zager's school day is still going strong. She has been on the move since a 4:45 a.m. cross-country practice. She only just got home from a 2½-hour drama rehearsal at school. Now she's crouched over the kitchen table, learning about cell mitochondria for a fast-approaching test. "I don't think it's physically possible for me to go to bed before midnight," she says.

Every day is a physical—and mental—marathon for students like Anne. With a 4.325 GPA, a lead role in the fall musical, a load of honors courses and spots on the varsity cross-country and soccer teams, Anne is booked solid. She is so strapped for free time



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For more information, talk to your doctor.

1. Does an unreasonable fear of embarrassment cause you to avoid most social interaction?
2. Is the anxiety you feel around people so intense it sometimes feels like a panic attack?
3. Has this overwhelming anxiety significantly impaired your work or social life?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Yes ☐ No ☐

Yes ☐ No ☐

Answering these questions and discussing them with your doctor can help determine if you suffer from social anxiety disorder. Lesser degrees of social anxiety usually do not require medication.



YOU MAY WANT TO CUT OUT THIS AD AND SHOW IT TO YOUR DOCTOR

Ask your doctor about PAXIL today...  
your life is waiting!™

Please see the following page  
for important product information.

PX0790 September 1999  
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**SB**  
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# ONCE-DAILY

## PAROXETINE HCl

### PAZI<sup>®</sup> (brand of paroxetine hydrochloride)

Complete prescribing information in *SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals Literature or PDR*. The following is a brief summary.

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE:** PAZI is indicated for the treatment of depression, obsessions and compulsions in patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) as defined in DSM-IV, panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia, as defined in DSM-IV and social anxiety disorder, as defined in DSM-IV.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Concomitant use in patients taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) is contraindicated. See **WARNINGS** and **PRECAUTIONS**. Concomitant use in patients with a hypersensitivity to paroxetine or any of the inactive ingredients in PAZI.

**WARNINGS:** Interactions with MAOIs may occur. Given the fatal interactions reported with concomitant or immediately consecutive administration of MAOIs and other SSRIs, do not use PAZI in combination with a MAOI or within 2 weeks of discontinuing MAOI treatment. Allow at least 2 weeks after stopping PAZI before starting a MAOI.

**PRECAUTIONS:** As with all antidepressants, use PAZI with caution in patients with a history of mania. Use PAZI with caution in patients with a history of seizures. Discontinue if in any patient who develops delirium.

The possibility of suicide attempts in patients with depression and may persist with significant risk of recurrence. Close supervision of high-risk patients should accompany drug therapy. Write PAZI prescriptions for the smallest quantity of tablets consistent with good patient management in order to reduce the risk of overdose.

Reversible hyponatremia has been reported, mostly in elderly patients, patients taking diuretics or those who were otherwise volume depleted. Abnormal bleeding risks, ecchymoses and purpura, including a case of immune-mediated purpura, appear to have been reported, the relationship to paroxetine is unclear.

Clinical experience with PAZI in patients with concomitant psychiatric illness is limited. Use cautiously in patients with diabetes or conditions that could affect metabolism or hemodynamics. Observe the usual cautions for use in patients with severe renal impairment. Lactation is expected. Do not use in patients with severe hepatic impairment. A lower starting dose (10 mg) may be used.

Cautious patients after operating a motor vehicle, including automobiles, until they are reasonably sure that PAZI therapy does not affect their ability to engage in such activities. See **WARNINGS**. Observe the usual cautions for driving. Do not inform physicians about other medications they are taking or plan to take, or avoid alcohol while taking PAZI. Do not rely on physicians if they become pregnant or intend to become pregnant during therapy, or if they are nursing.

Weakness, hypotension, and incontinence is following use of an SSRI and suspicion have been noted. Incontinence may be due to either urinary or fecal incontinence. Use PAZI with caution in patients with urinary or fecal incontinence.

Concomitant use of PAZI with theophylline is not recommended. Use PAZI with caution in patients taking theophylline. PAZI may increase theophylline plasma levels. Use PAZI with caution in patients taking theophylline. Use PAZI with caution in patients taking theophylline.

When co-administering PAZI with theophylline or theophylline, use PAZI with caution. When co-administering PAZI with theophylline or theophylline, use PAZI with caution. When co-administering PAZI with theophylline or theophylline, use PAZI with caution.

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Pharmaceuticals  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

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## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY



**TUESDAY, 8:00 P.M.**

In the pouring rain, Mary Mendel and her son Chris, 17, arrive at the St. Louis Bread Co. for their weekly date. Mary is an executive with the Bank of America. While munching on sandwiches, they spend the next hour chatting about

school, work and the latest gossip. Chris says he's been talking to his dad, who has been divorced from Mary for 16 years, about going to college out West. Mary ponders the idea for a moment. If Chris moves far away, she'll have to figure out a new way to touch base.

Even Anne's whirlwind energy has its limits. She recently quit her job at the Gap. She has never really been on a date. "I just don't have the time," she says. Mostly, though, she just skimps on sleep, surviving on less than six hours most nights.

But the biggest effect of Anne's rapid-fire existence may be felt next fall. "For college," she confides, "I might want someone a little less difficult." —By Jodie Morse

## Wednesday

6:15 A.M. | THE EARLY BUS

### Race and class at a suburban school

**M**OST OF HIS CLASSMATES are still asleep as 15-year-old Jonathan Robinson stands on a dark street corner on the north side of St. Louis, Mo., waiting for Miss Judy's yellow school bus. Even before the bus arrives, he sees his mother in her Ford station wagon, pulling over on her way to work. She rolls down the window and waves a \$5 bill—lunch money. Jonathan leans in and kisses her goodbye. Minutes later he boards the bus for the half-hour trek to Webster Groves.

Jonathan is what is known as a VTS kid, or voluntary transfer student. In the early 1970s, under a court-ordered desegregation plan, Webster opened its doors to youngsters from the inner city. Today black students account for about a quarter of the 1,300-plus student body, with 161 of them, or 12%, bused in from the city.

Jonathan's mom Robin Norice, 38, an IRS tax examiner, has had her son in the program since the fourth grade because, she says, "I want him to have the same educational experience as whites"—one of higher quality than he would get in the inner city. Jonathan's neighborhood friends often taunt him for being too good to simply walk the six blocks to Roosevelt High. But "all they do there is fight every day," he says. "You've got to worry about the gangs and what color you're wearing." He appreciates Webster's relative safety and its pride in racial diversity. Indeed, long before the 1970s desegregation, Webster Groves boasted an integrated community. Most blacks reside in Rock Hill, a part of town settled by freed slaves, whose businesses, churches and schools spawned a thriving black middle class.

Look in on the high school, and you'll see a real-life Benetton ad in which whites and blacks joke and gossip easily between classes, study together in the library and date one another. Jonathan counts among his best friends three white guys in his choir class. "Blacks and whites mix in real well together here," he says. Sally Roth, a white senior, agrees. "Race doesn't really matter

here," she says. "I've dated black guys, and so have just about all my friends."

Listen closely, though, and you can hear undercurrents of tension: black kids complaining about being misunderstood by white teachers and singled out as troublemakers; black parents worrying that their children are held to lower academic standards; white teachers whispering about undisciplined, unmotivated black students.

ON THIS MORNING, AS JONATHAN boards the bus, his hands dangle, free of books or homework. He says he completed his assignments at school the day before, a story that frustrates his mother, given his 2.0 grade-point average. "I always tell him, 'You've already got two strikes against you: you're black, and you're male. The only thing that's going to get you where you want to go in life is an education.'"

It's not as if Jonathan is a slacker; at home he cleans, cooks and takes care of his three younger siblings when his mom and stepdad are working. During Jonathan's freshman and sophomore years, Norice says, "he was playing football and basketball, was in show choir and concert choir, rehearsing for a play and working part time stripping furniture. He was overwhelmed. The commute was wearing him down. But he's cut his schedule down, and is really doing better."

Jonathan is known as a good cook and wants one day to be a chef. But he doesn't see much connection between that dream and his schoolwork. And he often seems distracted by fights with his dad, venting to his friend Kristina Betts during the bus ride that "I'm too old for him to try to chastise me now."

Counselor Thomasina Hassler says many black students' grades suffer because of family problems or responsibilities at home that distract from studies. To make her point, she brandishes a ranking of last



**WHEELING HOME** Miss Judy's bus arrives at dawn to whisk Jonathan out of North St. Louis to Webster Groves High



## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY



**EARLY TO RISE:** From the inner-city streets of St. Louis, this "voluntary transfer student" learns the first sacrifice—sleep

year's 267 seniors; of the 34 who graduated with a 4.0 or better GPA, none was black. Searching the list for the highest-ranking black student, she runs her finger down the second page to No. 59, Tanya Hoard, who graduated with a 3.67 average. Hassler, who is black, wishes there were more like Hoard and thinks both black and white teachers at Webster must work harder to address the academic needs of African-American students. "The stuff about racial differences is built into American culture and is not particular to one place. It starts well before the kids get to high school. If there is not a high expectation and a channeling of a kid's interests, the kid will fall behind. If you go to our advanced classes you'll find only one or two black kids. Why? Because early on, these kids were not given the confidence or expectations to break through barriers."

Middle-class blacks who live in Webster



**FRIENDS 4EVER** Chrissy Bates, left, gives Biythe Debonport a big hug after the class of '00 senior photo is taken

Groves and have strong role models tend to score higher—but can still feel isolated. By third period, senior Paya Rhodes, 18, is in her advanced-calculus class, sitting beside the only other black student. Rhodes has a 3.6 GPA, and in most of her advanced classes, she's the only black. Paya used to take pride

in that status and in her family's record of excellence at Webster Groves. Her oldest brother maintained a 4.0 for four straight years; another went on to Washington University. Her mother and a third brother are also Webster grads, and her younger sister is following her on the honors track.

But last year a seemingly innocent bit of history homework left Paya feeling bitter and alone. The assignment was for students to write anonymous essays about their views on racism and whether they themselves might be racist. Days later, when the teacher read some of the essays aloud, Rhodes couldn't believe what she heard. One paper, she recalls, described black kids as "loud, obnoxious show-offs." Another depicted blacks as inferior. As usual, Paya was the only black student in the class. "I felt real uncomfortable and out of place," she recalls. "These were people I talked to and worked in groups with. I had no idea some of them didn't like black people."

Even Sally Roth, whose best friend is black, admits that amid Webster's relative racial harmony, there are unsettling contradictions, which she experienced first-hand





Dodge  Different.



## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY

while dating a black guy at school. When she would visit her boyfriend at his home, some of the "popular white kids" at school would "make these rude comments about me going to Little Africa, Hershey Hill or Brownstown. They were his friends too. It really pissed me off that they would say that behind his back." When Sally's black friends came to visit, new neighbors blamed them, without evidence, for a recent burglary in the neighborhood, according to Sally's mother Rebecca Roth, who graduated from Webster in 1976.

The vrs kids, at least, would have had an ironclad alibi: the bus that sweeps them nonstop back to St. Louis immediately after school each day. As the final bell rings and Jonathan strolls with his friends into the afternoon sun, he says once again that he completed his homework in class. His hands swing freely at his side. —By Ron Stodghill

### MENTAL HEALTH

## On down days, try talking to a teacher

**W**E'VE GOT FRIES!" SQUEALS sophomore Leigh Jacobson, tearing into her family's living room with a Dairy Queen bag in hand and her sister Elizabeth in tow. The two girls can't stop giggling (about a cute boy), and Leigh rushes over to give her dog Annie a big nuzzle. "Lately," she reports, "I've been having a string of good days."

Her afternoons haven't always been so carefree. About a year ago, Leigh began feeling "down in the dumps." A diligent student, she stopped doing her homework and, instead, slept or cried away her evenings. She drifted from her childhood friends and started hanging out with an older crowd. "It



**OUT OF STEP, 2:20 P.M.** The outcasts, known as the Church Step Dirties, can be found on the front steps of the Christ Lutheran Church, across the street from school, where they feed their nicotine

habits after the last bell rings. "Some kids could be a little more open to the social boundaries," says Heather Corey. "Some of them won't give people the time of day because of what their friends might think."

was total detachment," recalls her mother Joan. "We'd keep wondering if the old Leigh was still in there." And nothing—not favorite activities like shopping at the mall or sessions with a therapist—would coax her out.

Then last January, Leigh remembers sitting in algebra class and thinking: "Today is not a good day." That afternoon she swallowed 40 pills—20 aspirin and 20 Tylenol—and was hospitalized for eight days. After having clinical depression diagnosed, she was put on the antidepressant Effexor, among other medications. "Now, instead of the peaks and valleys," she says, "I just feel small waves of emotion. Things are a lot smoother."

As many as 20% of Leigh's Webster Groves classmates currently take prescription medication to treat depression and other psychiatric disorders, according to the school's social worker, Pat Ferrugia. Nationally, an estimated 1 in 20 children and adolescents suffers from depression. While doctors have long dispensed drugs like Ritalin to children and adolescents, teen prescriptions for antidepressants such as Prozac, Zoloft and Paxil have grown rapidly in recent years.

Accordingly, schools minister more and more to the mental health of their student bodies. At Webster Groves each student is assigned to one of the school's six



**ON THE UPSWING.** Today was a good day for Leigh and her dog Annie



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## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

guidance counselors, who keeps tabs on them for all four years. But it's those closest to students—teachers, coaches and even peers—who serve as the primary mental-health detectors. Teachers receive a checklist of the signs of adolescent depression, ranging from "lack of concentration" to "crying spells" all the way to "thoughts or plans of suicide." If a student matches the profile, teachers alert a 16-member team, led by Ferrugia, that intervenes by contacting other teachers and parents.

But Ferrugia works at the school only three days a week, and each counselor, in addition to doubling as a college adviser, must monitor more than 200 charges. Regardless of the resources pinch, there will always be some troubled kids who simply escape notice. "I call them the wallpaper kids," says nurse Buss, "those kids who will be carrying big loads, but they're so quiet nobody notices."

Some at Webster, students included, are worried that the number of kids on medication is too high. "I'm definitely seeing overmedicated students where the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing," says Buss. So some simply stop taking their medication, without consulting a parent or doctor. Senior Zach Wood took himself off Paxil last spring because, he says, "I couldn't just sit on the couch and have happy pills make me feel better." Ferrugia has an even greater concern: because many seriously depressed teens at Webster get their medication directly from their primary-care physician, they never spend any time on the psychiatrist's couch talking out their issues.

In August, Leigh stopped seeing her psychiatrist. ("He made me wallow in myself," she says.) Though her grades and disposition have perked up with her medication, she still has her share of down days. What then? Instead of confiding in a doctor, she now finds solace elsewhere: "In my teachers," she says. —J.M.

### 7:30 P.M. | MATT'S HOUSE

## Trying to help a self-destructive teen

"I'M LUCKY I HAVEN'T HAD A NERVOUS breakdown," says Janet Gewinner as she looks on while her 17-year-old son Matt leaves for hockey practice. She reminds him to take the medication in the kitchen. For him it is a life-and-death issue.

Matt was a relatively well-adjusted teen until the summer of 1998, when his close friend Jeremy DeNeal died in a car accident. "There was no one to get me through Jeremy's funeral, so I had to do it alone," says



**CRYING OUT** Matt Gewinner continues to battle depression after his friend's death

Matt. "In school I started making comments like 'I'm going to kill myself' ... I turned to heavy drugs so I'd be numb."

Psychiatrists determined that Matt was suffering from both manic and severe depression. His daily medication is a cocktail that includes Celexa, lithium, Risperdal, vitamin E and caffeine. Because it left him so exhausted, Janet—an insurance analyst who divorced Matt's father six years ago—cut trazodone from the mix. She keeps most of the medicine hidden because she fears that Matt may try to overdose.

He's tried to kill himself before. In April, Janet found a suicide note from Matt, along with the songs that he wanted played at his funeral. He was hospitalized and released a few days later. When his girlfriend's parents wouldn't let him see her because he was acting unstable, Matt threatened to kill them, but instead slit his wrists. The police came, and once again he was hospitalized. Shortly afterward, Matt overdosed on cold medication.

A student with Matt's history naturally worries school administrators. The week before, Matt says, he asked his Latin teacher, "What happens if you make a threat to kill a teacher? Do you get suspended or expelled?" He says he likes to play mind games and was just curious, but school officials were quick to take action. They immediately called Matt's psychiatrist and his mother and asked his teachers to keep an eye on him. An administrator told him, Matt says, "If I threaten anyone or make any 'I'm going to kill myself' statements, I would be suspended with no questions asked until I could get a doctor's note."

The school's reaction angers Janet. "I

think they're trying to take too much control," she says. "I think they're going to look for anything they can, and if they can get him out of school, they'll be relieved. If the situation at Littleton never happened, things would be a lot different now." Matt complains that the school targets students who stand out. "They don't talk to the preppy kids. They flag the kids that are Goth and wear black."

Just before Matt leaves this evening, he pulls out a planner complete with pictures of his deceased friends, business cards of the hospitals he has stayed in and other painful memorabilia. "It's part of my life," says Matt. "I'll show this to my kids." —F.T.

7:00 P.M. | FAITH

## Students for Christ

GAPPED, AMERICAN EAGLED and Abercrombie & Fitch'd to the teeth, teens emerge from cars packed four to a seat, flirting and yelling, heading for the back of senior Katie Sonderman's tidy white house on Greeley Avenue. Within half an hour, the 24-ft. by 26-ft. Sonderman family room contains—just barely—about one-ninth of the Webster Groves High School student body. Suddenly an overhead projector flips on, two amplified acoustic guitars chime in and 160 youthful voices scream, "Here's a story! It's sad but true! About a girl that I once knew! ... Keep away from Runaround Sue!"

It is ebullient; it is deafening. "It's bigger than band," says Herrn Adams, who convened it. "It's the largest group in the school." Actually, not in the school. One of the peculiarities of life in Webster Groves is that in a community in which Catholicism is the largest Christian denomination, and in a school that has no on-campus prayer groups, the most important weekday social event is Club, the entry level of a national Evangelical group called Young Life.

For 59 years, Young Life has specialized in gathering "unchurched" teens back into the religious fold, officially nondenominational, Young Life has a strong Evangelical Protestant base. Wednesday-night Club is its accessible first level; the second is Camp, a \$500, one-week stay at a Young Life facility. The third is Campaigners, a small group that convenes at the Adams' home Fridays at 6 a.m. for prayer, fellowship and mutual exhortation: to bring new kids to Club. Of tonight's hearty choristers, Adams estimates, 120 will end up trying Camp. Of those, he predicts, "probably 70% will give their life to Christ."

The young crowd roars through *Brown-Eyed Girl*, *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* and



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## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY



**LOW-KEY RELIGION:** Many teens attend Club as much for the songs and the socializing as for the preaching.

other oldies that seem suspended in amber. "Yeah, they seem corny," says a sophomore. "But everybody's singing them, and that makes it fun, even though it's corny."

Adams rises, holding a laptop computer. "We want to do two things here," he announces. "One, we want to have a lot of fun, and, two, we're gonna answer some of the most serious and fundamental things about life." He gestures to the computer. "You look at this, and you realize it's a fairly complex piece of equipment. We recognize that someone fairly intelligent designed it. Our bodies and souls are far more complex than this is... The Bible says God created heaven and earth and created us. What do you guys believe? That is the starting point for us."

Most students, teachers and Webster High parents support Young Life. "It's incredibly cool," enthuses Beth Perez, a Campaigners member. "It just shows kids, at a very early age, why they are here and what God has planned for them and how great their lives can be." Her mother Susan Perez, a lapsed Catholic, speaks for many parents who, if they fail to match their children's fervor, are extremely grateful for the program's fruits. "If your teenager is going to be tied to some sort of group; if she comes

out of it saying I don't drink, I don't smoke pot, I don't do this or that because I'm a Christian... well, that's O.K.," she says.

Campaigners do tend to be good students, well grounded, chaste and drug-free, although backsliding on drinking is not unknown. Through Campaigners, Club and their own considerable charisma, Herm and his wife Terri exert a major and wholesome influence on the entire student body. "I believe Young Life is a force in the school," says Herm. "I think it's increased school spirit."

Still, not everybody is enthused. Some students who have not been to Club deride it as a cult. Mary Beth Carosello, a former student-body president who is studying at the University of Missouri, attended both Club and Camp but became disenchanted. "When you're a freshman, you see older kids who are so into Young Life and so into Terri and Herm, and you think, Wouldn't it be fun to be friends with them? And then you get in there, and they're really Christian [meaning Evangelical]. I came to feel, why do we need this hard-core group with such an important place in our high school?"

James Jenkins is more comfortable with the group's role. Young Life is overwhelmingly white, but Jenkins, who is African

American, is returning tonight to his second Club. A promising pitcher and the junior-varsity quarterback, he buses in from St. Louis' South Side. James has a younger brother and sister, and had an older brother Anthony Morris. "But he died. Some guys robbed and killed him." It happened three days after James' birthday. "I was 15," he says. (He still is.) He was 14, he says, when his father died. When Adams promises to talk about "some of the most serious and fundamental things in life," James is listening. "Now if my pastor [at St. Louis Christian Center in the city] preaches about something, and I don't really understand what it means," he says, "I could go to Young Life for an answer."

It is 8:30, and Herm brings his mini-sermon to a quick close. There is a scuffle and a muted shout, and the horde erupts almost instantaneously into the fleet of cars. Out the open windows you can hear strains of September's inescapable novelty hit, Lou Bega's mildly salacious *Mambo No. 5*: "A little bit of Monica in my life/A little bit of Erica by my side... / A little bit of Sandra in the sun/A little bit of Mary all night-long." The kids sing along. But not as loudly as they did in Club.

—D.V.B.



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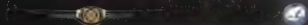


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## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY



**FAMILY MATTERS** Bobby's parents never miss his games. Tonight his father helps him get ready by shaving his head

cal; urine tests detected marijuana. Bobby wanted the test kept secret, but Coach Ice found out anyway. Ice tried to talk to him, and Bobby walked out. When he went back to apologize yesterday, the coach shut the door, telling him he knew and reminding him that the team depends on him as a leader. "He's a walking time bomb," says Mark Eason, who runs a youth basketball program and has watched Bobby grow up. "When I see him, he's so polite. He's so nice. But inside, he's crying."

Sweeping the kitchen floor after his haircut, Bobby pays no attention to the clock. It's almost time for a meeting for players and parents at school on the complicated rules for NCAA eligibility. Bobby has got half a dozen introductory letters from college coaches, but it's too early for offers. Will he attend tonight's meeting? "Nah," he says.

He's betting he can impress college recruiters on the football field. A tight end, he prides himself on making the blocks that lead to touchdowns, but Coach Ice wants him to catch the ball. His big hands are made of glass, and he has yet to catch a touchdown pass. But this Friday night, he hopes to get his chance to dance in the end zone. —T.R.

7:01 P.M. | HOME AND AWAY

### A football star dangles on the edge of manhood

**J**UST HOME FROM FOOTBALL PRACTICE, Bobby Granderson perches on a stool in his family's kitchen. Normally he shaves his own head, but tonight his dad Bobby Sr. is running the electric razor. It's an awkward moment; this is the most the two of them have spoken in weeks without throwing a gibe. His father compliments Bobby's handling of the clippers. He's been trying to talk his son into going to trade school or perhaps opening a barbershop with him. The remark hits a nerve, but Bobby hides it. Will his dad ever understand him?

At 18, Bobby is at an inflection point that will largely determine the course of his life. Right now he's got athletic talent and fame, and everyone wishes him well. But will he build on that, or will he peak as a senior in high school? He has applied to join the Navy, but still hopes for a football scholarship to college. One problem: his GPA is 1.6, and he has only seven months to pull that up to a 2.0 to be eligible for college sports and, more important, to get enough English credits to graduate. Another is that until this year, no one gave him knowledgeable advice on how to go about winning an athletic scholarship.

Bobby gets a lot of tough love at home.

As suave and polite as he seems to outsiders, he has "two personalities," says his stepmother Willie. "He's a con artist." His parents kicked him out of the house in August, trying to scare him after he came home drunk at 5 a.m. Later his father told him to do something, and Bobby refused. "I got tired of hearing what he wasn't going to do," says Bobby Sr., who smacked him with a stick, hurting his feelings more than anything. Bobby walked to a gas station and called police, who sided with his dad.

His parents lock their bedroom because Bobby "borrows" money, CDs—even shoes. He ignores his 1 a.m. curfew and regularly loses keys, coats and wallets. He goes to school mostly to see the girls and skips class as he pleases. Last year he had 109 tardies.

When Bobby was in elementary and middle school, his grades were above average. But even in kindergarten, his teacher wrote in his report card, "Bobby is an energetic and social child... He wants to have friends and does have them, but it's something that causes him to worry." Now his friends worry his parents. He seldom introduces them to his friends, many of whom are white and come from affluent families. "He thinks we're country bumpkins," says Bobby Sr. "This young man lives in a fantasy world. He wants to be rich."

His parents are so concerned that they recently fell on their knees and prayed, "Good Lord, show us something." Their answer came in the mail. The Navy sent a letter saying Bobby had failed his physi-

## Thursday

8:30 A.M. | CAFETERIA LADY

### Paying for breakfast with a \$100 bill

**W**ITH THE SCENT OF BACON still in the air, Nancy Giessmann, 62, has just cleared the last remnants of breakfast when it is time to get ready for lunch. Any anthropologist studying the tribes of a U.S. high school would envy the observation post Giessmann has manned for the past 19 years behind the cafeteria steam table. She has watched students' tastes shift from meat loaf to pizza and from nice skirts to shorts with panties hanging out—"If they even wore panties," Giessmann sniffs. She knows that most students these days earn spending money at part-time jobs, but she also knows to call the school detective "when I see kids with their wallets full of \$50 and \$100 bills to pay for a 70¢ breakfast. It's usually drug money."

—By Stacy Ferman



# ✱ COMMUNICATION.

## T H E     A N T I - D R U G .

A loving relationship cannot exist without communication. Research shows that kids believe they have valuable things to say. When parents ask them and listen genuinely, **it helps build self-esteem and confidence.**



Communication is connection. During their teenage years, kids are exposed to an ever widening variety of people and influences. Know their friends as well as their friends' parents. Know your kids' routines and set curfews. Tell your kids that you love them. Praise them when they do well, no matter how small the accomplishment. Stay connected.

Also it demonstrates that you support their burgeoning independence as well as their ability to make intelligent decisions. The important thing to remember about drugs is that **it's not a five minute talk about sex. It's a dialogue.** As kids grow, they will need more information relevant to their exposure. In general, smoking marijuana is harmful. The younger a kid is, the more it may be. Research shows that people who smoke it before age 15 **are 7 times more likely to use other drugs.** It also

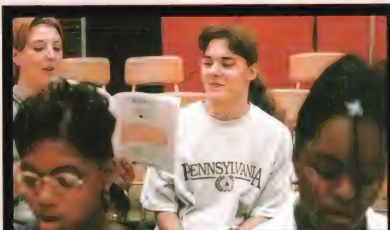
shows that people who didn't smoke marijuana by age 21 were more likely to never smoke it. For more information, visit [www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com) or call 800.788.2800.

Getting to know your kids and staying involved with them is one of the most effective drug deterrents. Through their teenage years, this is not always easy. Even still, research shows that kids still want this to happen, even as they are exploring and growing into their own individuality. One way to do this is to set dates to do things together and plan routine activities (Saturday lunches, Sunday afternoon drives) where you can catch up. **This message is brought to you by the Office of National Drug Control Policy/Partnership for a Drug-Free America.**



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY



12:10 P.M.

Vicki Boren's Chorale course is vocalizing. The students sight-read: "This I know/ I will go/ to the lands that call to me..." Next they all harmonize prettily on Windsong.

All, that is, except for Aimee Decoster. Aimee, 16, does not sing. She is autistic and has a speech impairment. Over the years her mother has fought hard for her "inclusion" (once called

mainstreaming) in regular classes, which may one day help her toward independent employment. At first it is hard to tell whether she makes anything at all of the music. But toward the end, Aimee signs impulsively to Boren, who turns to Aimee's aide Hannah Wooderson for the translation: "This song makes me want to throw up! Play Windsong again!" Everyone laughs, Aimee included.

3:30 P.M. | THE BASEMENT

## The Church Step Dirties find refuge

AS THEY DO MOST AFTERNOONS, THE social refugees of Webster Groves find sanctuary underground—in Gene Clifford's basement, a dim cavern that reeks of cigarettes.

Here, 16-year-old Gene and his friends have created a study hall-cum-social center. Posters of Pink Floyd, the X-Files and Tori Amos line the walls. Encyclopedias, dictionaries and classics fill the bookshelves. A computer with Internet access lights up the corner. The room is a cocoon, protected from the rest of the student body, from which they feel alienated. "Here I have ready access to all of my friends," says Gene. "And it's not the Crestwood Mall, where I have to deal with people who don't like me without even knowing me."

At school, these kids are known as the Church Step Dirties because they convene after school on the steps of the Christ Lutheran Church, smoking Camels. At Webster, their perceived bad fashion, bad family, bad hygiene or bad attitude evokes disdain from many classmates. "A lot of people look down at us and write us off because of what we look like," says Gene. "They don't even know us."

In Webster's social pecking order, these

## Drop the Chalupe!

10:00:00 Bell rings. Justin Mahley races out, ignoring several students on the way. "You just gotta go if you wanna get there fast," he says.

10:00:10 Justin and friends jump into the '89 Jeep Wrangler with oversize TSL tires, top down, and head toward Taco Bell, 2.5 miles away.

10:00:30 Cigarettes lit.

10:00:55 "Son of a bitch, my hair!" screams Mary-Kate Cullinane as they gather speed on Big Bend Boulevard.

10:01:04 Turn onto Watson Road. "Once you get on this," says Justin, "you're cool because you get to go 40."

10:01:27 Park at Taco Bell.

10:01:30 All orders in; \$11.99 for four people.

10:01:40 Lunch arrives.

10:01:50 Tacos eaten; head to Jeep.

10:02:01 "All right, Tommy, let me hear you speakers!" The backseat vibrates to the band 311's base line.

11:01:00 Back in school, 8 minutes early.

kids are rock bottom. "We are definitely the outsiders," says junior Adam White, 16. "Not a whole lot of the 'popular' people give us the time of day"—a generalization confirmed by popular senior Adam Wise: "I don't know how to put it... but they don't fit in."

Yet the Dirties "like how they have an identity," observes Webster social studies teacher Jenni Wilson. With it comes a home in Gene's basement and a surrogate parent in Gene's divorced mom, Eileen Stewart, 42, a former computer consultant. Thirteen of the Dirties come to her house five days a week for an informal study program. She knows their class schedules and their family situations. They call her "Mom." But Mom has rules in her basement: no disrespect, cursing, drugs or sex. Their real parents must know where they are, and they must do their homework. Stewart keeps the basement open until 10 on weeknights, midnight on weekends. "They can study here and hang out and be O.K.," she says.

This afternoon, while their classmates are shopping or playing sports, Darrin Cayton, 17, and Gene are in the basement, smoking and riffing on their guitars. Heather Corey, 16, is on the couch, studying. After flunking four classes last semester, Heather has made straight A's this fall, in part through some serious book cracking in Stewart's basement. That probably won't help her make the social A-list at school, but it might do her some good in the years to come.

—S.P.

11:00 P.M. | SOFTBALL

## Remembering five who died

SEVENTEEN ONLY COMES ONCE IN A lifetime! Don't it just fly by wild and free... Tim McGraw's voice rings out from a boom box perched on an aluminum grandstand, behind a well-worn softball diamond. Beth Perez, 17, is playing catch and humming along, until she sees the yellow sign hanging from the chain-link backstop: WE LOVE YOU MR. ABERNATHY!

Her expression changes, and she wings the ball straight into the fencing. "I'm tired of crying," she mutters. "I'm sick of going to funerals. I'm sick of having to cope with everything and see my friends in pain." Her Webster Groves Stateswomen are preparing for a 4-15 game against Kirkwood High School. Only death keeps getting in the way.

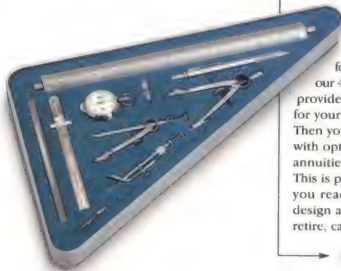
Many people's first education in mortality comes during high school. But at Webster Groves, in other ways so typical, the lesson has been extraordinarily harsh. The class of 2000 has been especially hard hit. And no group here has borne as much grief as the women's softball team.

On the first day of school last year, Miss Voss came on the p.a. with shocking news.



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**A TOUGH SEASON** Co-captains Beth Perez and Julie Duenke after a game. Their team grew together as a result of adversity

Three Webster teens had died during the summer. Incoming junior Katy Orf, her classmates later learned, had perished in a head-on collision in Pennsylvania. A week later, Erica Brussel, whose brother was a junior, died similarly on route 55. And then on Aug. 3, junior Joe Grosberg was found in the Mississippi River. Joe had been well known as his class's biggest flirt.

"Katy's funeral was hardest for me because she lived right next to me, in my backyard," says Beth, the softball team's shortstop and co-captain. "But I knew Joe since sixth grade, on the bus. He'd make me play with his earlobe."

"Make you?" asks Becca Dunn, the centerfielder.

"It was soft, and he would fall asleep," protests Beth.

"He said my path was straight and his was crooked and he was gonna try and knock me off mine," recalls Becca.

"I don't think Miss Voss should have come on the p.a.," says Jenny Kettler, the rightfielder, absently.

"We were like 16 years old," says Becca. "You had to tell us things."

The next day Miss Voss had to tell them more. Overnight, Jeremy DeNeal had run into a wall at the juncture of routes

70 and 270. Jeremy had known everybody and done everything: partied with the partiers, prayed at Young Life, worked in the school office. Meg Kassabaum, a reserve third baseman, looks up. "The whole school went silent," she remembers. Then it fell apart. One girl cried so hard in her car that she had an accident of her own.

"People said we were cursed," says Meg. "All anybody could ask was, Why is this happening to us? And, Who's next?"

"You don't want to ask it," agrees Becca. "But you ask it anyway."

School counselors were swamped, especially the plainspoken 58-year-old who doubled as softball coach. "Mr. Averbuch told me, 'If I was in Jeremy's position, I would want you guys to be celebrating the good things I did in my life rather than mourning,'" says Stephanie Murray, a pitcher.

The girls fall silent for a moment.

"He'd call me at home if I didn't go see him one day," says Beth. "He'd say he was just making sure I was O.K."

"He was the first coach I had who told me, you're a great softball player, and you're gonna be able to do it," says Meg.

Ben Averbuch had joined the faculty as a guidance counselor in 1990. Even teens not officially assigned to him sought out his advice and comfort, and he was recognized as the adviser most concerned about college placement. Averbuch took over the girls' fast-pitch softball team. It needed a boost. "The program was kind of pathetic," says coach Bob Berndt. "And that was on good days." Averbuch groomed two fine pitchers and became especially close to the '00 seniors. On Monday two weeks ago, the team was at 5 and 5. Beth was at home dressing for a 4:15 game.

"A friend of my mom's knocked on the door, and I answered it, and she said, 'What are you doing?' And I said, 'I'm getting ready for my game.' And she said, 'Well, you're not gonna have a game.'" Averbuch had suffered a massive stroke in the English department hall three hours earlier.

"I've had dreams with Joe and Kate and Jeremy," says Becca.

"I've had dreams with Averbuch," says Beth. "One started at a game, but then I was standing in the hallway when he had his attack. It was like I was glued." She pauses. "He used to tell me, 'I'll find you scholarships, I'll get you in a school you'll love. Don't worry, I'll take care of it.' And now..."



## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

Jewish custom does not include flowers at a burial. But the rabbi at Ben Averbuch's made an exception, and one by one, the softball team dropped yellow roses into his grave. "I think his family was amazed at how many people were there," says Meg.

Immediately after the death, people asked Bob Berndt if the Stateswomen were canceling the rest of their schedule. "Coach wouldn't want us to," he replied. But some things did change. After warming up and just before breaking out of their huddle, the girls now recite a Hail Mary. Then they yell, "Averbuch, pray for us!"

Becca has considered the appropriateness of this. "I wanted him to be in heaven so much," she says. "But I didn't know for sure. But I was reading the Bible—*Romans 10*. And it explained that God asks the Jews to come live with him based on faith. He chooses who he wants to be in heaven. So you just think Mr. Averbuch is in heaven." And the girls play with him in mind.

"He was definitely that kind of guy," says Meg. "You know we're winning it for him."

Tonight, they lose. Heartbreakingly. Silly errors leave them down 5-4 in the last inning, with one out. Beth singles, and steals her way to third. Then, on a sacrifice fly, she streaks for home—trying too hard. Tagged out, she lies in the dirt, face down, for at least 10 seconds.

But then she rises. The field clears, and the two teams line up to shake hands. Beth is at the head of the line.

From somewhere, she summons a smile. —D.V.B.

6:00 P.M. | TEEN ROMANCE

### Many find friendship and sex without dating

**W**ERE IT NOT FOR HIS LOVE OF Rollerblading and her occasional pigtails, Peter Vission and Sally Roth would do a good imitation of a suburban married couple. She does the laundry; he does the dishes. Tonight he's in the oak-trimmed kitchen making grilled cheese sandwiches for dinner, before they settle down in front of *The Simpsons* to eat and do homework. They have known each other since sixth grade, been a couple for one year, and when Peter's parents are out of town, like this week, they move in together. Sally's mother approves. But Sally has some doubts about this advanced-placement course in commitment. "If you spend too much time with somebody, it gets old," she says. "I missed home. When you don't spend too

much time together, it gets to be more fun when you do see them."

Could this pass for a date in Webster Groves? "No," says Sally. "It's just hanging out." When she and Peter do venture out, it's usually in a crowd. This baffles parents whose lessons in courtship were one-on-one. "If you have a date, you go meet him with everybody else," says parent Kay Johnson. "They never go out to the movies, but that's so much fun and I just don't get it." For the students, grabbing dinner and a movie as a first date is unusual. "If a guy asked me out to dinner," says senior Gale Cammon, "I wouldn't know what to say. That would be so formal." She has been dating her boyfriend for 2½ years. They started out as friends.

That's the standard path to romance, a reflection of a communion between boys and girls who treat each other as pals. Most of the students here have known one another since elementary school, and close friendships often lead to relationships. At parties where couples are present, one is hard pressed to figure out who is with whom. "People are very casual. Mainly we'll go out and do something together, including people who are a couple and people who are just friends," says junior Leslie Chicoineau. As a result, the line between friend and romantic interest often becomes blurred. "There are a lot of people who hook up for a one-night fling and just go back to being friends," says Gale. "It's not hard, since 'they pretty much know what they're getting into when it happens.'"

They also don't feel pressed to do more than they're ready for. In a survey by the student newspaper last year, half the seniors said they were sexually active, but students say there's no pressure to lose one's virginity. "People don't make fun of virgins at all," says junior James Wetton. "It's kind of respected." Even among the "Dive Team," a group of six upper-class males whose name has nothing to do with swimming, half the members say they have never had sex.

Their standards for virginity, though, are generous. Almost all the students, for example, take a Clintonian approach to oral sex. "You can't get a girl pregnant by having oral sex," says Peter. "In Webster, in St. Louis, oral sex is not sex. It's just foreplay."

Although there were 10 pregnancies and 20 sexually transmitted diseases reported to the school nurse last year, the students do take precautions—and some feel comfortable talking to their parents about sex. "I told [my mom] the first time I had sex. She wasn't mad at all," says Sally. "She was excited for me and told me to be careful and all." Peter isn't as open with his parents. "They pretty much think that that's none of their business just as long as I'm being careful and using protection," he says. Once, though, his mom offered to buy condoms for him.



**TIME OUT** After a long day, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick spends some quality time with live-in boyfriend Patrick Marin





If that's too embarrassing, he can turn to his friend's mother. She keeps a stockpile handy for the kids, diligently replenishing it once a month. She might be pleased to know that students are having protected sex no matter where they are. Building supervisor Frank Schaffer says that every so often his crews find used condoms in the corridors, stairways or the attic above Roberts Gym. "At least they're using them," he says.

Sally and Gale have discussed what will happen to their relationships after graduation. Sally plans to move to Los Angeles for design school, while Peter will stay in Missouri. They'll probably have to split. "What are you going to do?" Sally asks. Gale shrugs. She can always try dating.

-F.T.

## 11:52 P.M. | ASTRONOMY

### A teacher who will stay forever young

**B**RIAN YATES POINTS TO THE DARK sky, hardly able to contain himself as he recites the names of the stars and the planets. Over there is Andromeda, the chained lady. There's Pegasus, the winged horse—and the Northern Cross, Vega and Jupiter! "Get over it, Yates," yells one of the students who, for 50 extra-credit points, have come to the playground to

watch the moon rise. "Never," replies Yates.

At times, it's hard to tell whether Yates, physics and astronomy teacher and chair of the science department, is a member of the faculty or still a kid. He often tells students how much he's craving an RC Cola or a Moon Pie or a Slim Jim. He allows them to drink bottled water in class and speak up without raising their hands. But he's best known for his antics—shooting chalk through a plastic tube, or dropping a huge chemistry book on the floor for its startling effect. It's a formula that works, creating an environment that engages students. When one called him a mean old a--hole in class, he corrected him calmly. "That's mean old bastard to you."

Yates teaches in the same third-floor classroom where he once studied geometry. He was raised a short bike ride from the school, graduating in 1985. He moved to Colorado and Texas but returned after marrying, so that he could raise his two children in Webster's small-town atmosphere—and see his students at the pizza parlor or the Krispy Kreme. He doesn't mind when they stop by his house, or hide outside his back door to blast him with water balloons. "I would never teach in a school where I didn't live," he says.

At the start of every school year, he gives students a letter in which he tells them that he wants to help them excel, but

**GRADE 11: EXCUSE ME** Brian Yates, science teacher, mentor and confidant, brings the world, and the universe, into the classroom

that the real work is up to them. When he talks about his teaching philosophy, he turns serious. "It's not about the answers you get; it's about the questions you ask," says Yates. "I want them to be curious."

While the kids sometimes seem to diss him in class, Yates sees them as simply being comfortable enough to be themselves. At times they stay after class for advice, a measure of his influence. One afternoon in the counseling office, he saw Patrick Velten, a senior who plays soccer and is the kicker on the varsity football team, looking up colleges Yates says the teen couldn't pronounce. Knowing Pat's grades, Yates suggested, gently, that he consider the Navy or the Coast Guard and discuss it with his father. The next day, Pat stopped by to say he'd looked into the Coast Guard, even talked to a recruiter. He said he was thinking of being a Coast Guard spokesman. Less gently, Yates told Pat he didn't think quickly enough on his feet for that job. Pat wasn't offended; he just laughed and said, "If I go into the Coast Guard, I'm going to get one of those big Coast Guard tattoos on my arm." Yates smiled his boyish grin and said, "If you go to Havana, will you bring me back some cigars?"

At 33 and after nearly a decade of teaching, Yates is worried about going stale. Before school started, he trashed much of the material he had gathered over the years. He makes himself do the same homework he assigns his students. At least two or three times a semester, he invites his astronomy classes to watch meteor showers, or to count planets or, like tonight, to see the moon rise.

The first time he invited the kids to a vacant field, the police showed up to investigate; Yates had forgotten to tell them that he'd be there. Now he limits his excursions to school-district property. Not all the nearly 60 kids here are his students. His outings are not only fun; they are an excuse to stay out late. (Those in his classes must bring written permission from their parents to get the extra-credit points.) Nicole Lopez, a 16-year-old junior who has Yates for fifth period, listens to his every word. "He does what no other teacher does," she says. Besides the kids, several parents have also come to watch. At 11:21, a sliver of moon finally peaks in the east above a stand of trees. "Mission accomplished," declares Yates. The students begin to drive away, but one remains behind, watching Yates pack up. The boy's father is getting married this weekend, he confides, and he's been happy for him—until now. Yates knows this senior comes from a troubled family and stays to listen, though his own wife is home waiting for him in a warm bed.

-T.R.



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY



8:10 A.M.

In Martin Milstead's A.P. history class, not everyone is listening. Four students have their head down. One is in the front row, slumped over asleep, yet Milstead, a

veteran of 35 years of teaching, is undeterred. He puts on a slide of the slavery population and how it rose. He asks if anyone has questions. Anybody? Anybody?

## Friday

10:45 A.M. | SCHOOL LIBRARY

### Moving through life in a fog

**A** 17-YEAR-OLD SENIOR IS SITTING IN the library, talking about his social life. "If I found someone to date, it would be fine," he says. "But I'm pretty shy around girls. I really don't know what to talk about to girls. I

spend a lot of time reading books, science fiction and horror. I guess I could talk to them about school or current events, but I wouldn't know what to say beyond that. My mom wants me to date more, to go to the prom and stuff. She says she'll rent me a limo. She's worried that I'm not socially active and stuff."

"I'm on Adderall, and I see a therapist. I used to be on Ritalin. I've been on medication since the third grade. I don't like what the medication does to me. About four years ago I stopped taking my Ritalin. I'd get the pills and then throw them away. I started being wild. I liked how I felt because I didn't have to be courteous, and getting in trouble didn't bother me like it used to. I was getting

along pretty good and making friends. I went to a party with a bunch of girls and we stayed out late. I walked one home and kissed her good night. But I've never really had what I'd call a serious kiss with a girl. That was pretty much it."

"Then I went back on medication. I don't really like it. I used to be able to joke and laugh, but it slows down my reaction to things. And it killed my appetite, so I don't usually eat at lunch. I go off somewhere by myself rather than sitting at lunch not eating and looking strange." —R.S.

6 P.M. | FOOTBALL GAME

### Come on, everybody, clap your hands

**F**RIDAY NIGHT, FOOTBALL NIGHT, feels more like June than October. You expect to see some leftover fireflies, the air is so warm. The kids are still in shorts, the scoreboard is twinkling, the week is finally over. Everyone is coming to the game.

The varsity cheerleaders, 14 strong tonight, do their pregame psych-up at Natalie Rodriguez's house in North Webster. Destiny's Child blares on the CD player, and between trips to the bulging buffet table, two black girls teach the others how to get down to the music. Junior Sarah Budzinski gets a plate of cake smashed in her face in early celebration of her 17th birthday tomorrow. After dinner, Natalie's mom braids their hair, brown and blond alike, into cornrows. "Whenever my mom used to braid my hair," says senior Ann Barnes, "she'd say the more it hurts, the prettier it is." A minute later, her light, silky hair in Ms. Rodriguez's firm hands, Ann

### Over Lunch They Dissect Their Day

1:15 P.M.

"Whatevrrrr." Marty Walter, eyebrows arched, is imitating one of her biology students who had the nerve to yell it at her in class. Recounting this to her colleagues at lunch is her way of venting. It took strength, when the boy talked to her afterward, not to throw "whatever" back in his face. Her fellow teachers hoot at the mere thought: Oh, how good it would feel—just once—to tell off the little suckers.

Teaching today takes restraint, energy and, above

all, a sense of humor. While the kids downstairs eat cheese fries, half a dozen science teachers gather in the third-floor faculty lounge over leftovers from home. These 27 min. are more like a sanity break. When they enter the lounge, they get to be adults. They talk about everything from weekend plans to the lack of staff parking to the difference between sweet potatoes and yams.

When the conversation gets juicy, they shut the glass door, as when Kathleen Ahern, who teaches chemistry, confided her suspicion that a student has cheated. This brings a buzz of advice from her colleagues, who, despite what the kids

think, know when cheating is going on. "We're not stupid," says Mike Abegg.

To be a teacher in the 1990s, they say, means to have one's authority challenged daily. It's not just the kids who talk back. Some students curse at them; others don't bother to come class on time. Teachers may send them to the office to be reprimanded, but the kids usually return the next day with a grudge. Some teachers, they say, don't even bother to assign homework because the students won't do it and will flunk the class. And if teachers have high fail rates, school administrators come down on them.

As jaded as they may

sound, the science teachers say they love their jobs.

Several, like Margaret Skouby, who teaches concept physics, worked as chemical engineers or had other jobs in the private sector before coming here. At Webster they generally have the freedom to teach the way they want. Teachers must meet minimums in the school's curriculum but are not required to write out lesson plans. They measure the rewards in bits. Just as the lunch bell rang yesterday, longtime physics teacher Phillip Wojak rushed into the lounge, almost too excited to speak. A former student had published a textbook—and cited him in the dedication. —T.R.





turns beet red, clenches her teeth and yells out. "OOOUUCHHH!!!"

Just after 6, more than an hour before kickoff, the team is in the locker room, and the mood stinks. The players seem distracted, off balance. Behind closed doors, Bobby Granderson and wide receiver Chuck Walker are brutal to their teammates. "You better get your minds straight," Chuck says, his voice growing louder. "We won last week. We're doing good. But you're walking around like you're f— lost." By the time Coach Ice comes in, the players are quiet. He didn't like all the stupid mistakes in last week's game. "It's nice to be home," he says. "Just remember, we don't give away anything at our own house."

By now the stands are filling, as the teams line up to sing the National Anthem. Emmanuel Simmons, a lineman, takes one last shot from his asthma inhaler. Quarterback Karl Odenwald makes passing motions with his arm. As the announcer names the starters in tonight's game, the fans in the stadium scream for Bobby.

*Clap your hands, everybody, the cheerleaders chant, and fluff their pom-poms.*

*Everybody clap your hands  
We're W.G. going all the way.  
The best in the land.*

Ten seconds into the game, Webster scores. Senior Patrick Hunt is up in the stands, giving science teacher Marty Walter a hard time. She could pass for a student herself, but to him she's still Mrs. Walter, and it's weird to see her here, out of the box, not talking in that biology voice. "It'll be easier after you graduate," she tells him. "What," he says, "like, we're going to be friends with you guys?" and she laughs and

**TRUCK RIDER KILLS! Music to boost the spirits of a moody football team. It must have helped: Webster blew out Northwest 61-14**

says, "Nah, we don't want you as friends either," and you realize these are the teachers who are your friends for life.

Math teacher Eric Dunn has been wearing a Webster football jersey all day. No. 13, a walking ad for his student Karl Odenwald. Peter and Sally, her hair in pig-tails, arrive together and sit in the very front. Mr. Winingham strolls by with his 16-year-old, who looks like an escapee from a Caravaggio painting. Sally starts playing

with the child, getting in touch with her inner mom. Mr. Yates is with his two children and wife, Webster class of '85, and his in-laws, who were homecoming king and queen back in 1960.

The teachers are here in force, and the parents, little brothers and sisters, a baby dressed in tiger colors. Alums come back to watch their children play. And as the first half unrolls, they are playing if not well, then at least successfully.

The game is big and sloppy and wonderful to watch. With Northwest ahead 14-13, Karl makes a fine pass to Bobby, but the ball squirts through his hands. On the next play, Webster's Rodney Trevino catches a pass and scores. On the next series, Bobby, now playing defense, is determined to make up for his bobbled pass. He hammers a Northwest player, causing him to fumble. Webster's Raken Stamps recovers the ball and runs it into the end zone. Score: 27-14.

Nurse Lynn Buss and her husband, who have put three football-player sons through Webster Groves, wince whenever someone takes a good hit. She knows them by name and by injury. "Look, Matt Koch is playing," she points out. "He had an injured vertebra last year." She erupts when junior Jerry Bailey scores. "Hey, that guy was in my clinic at 4 yesterday pretending he was sick! That little stinker."

Detective Dave Dreher's sport jacket and slacks are gone. Tonight he's in uniform, badge and gun plainly visible, working the parking lots. "Oh, high school days," he sighs as he orbits the stadium grounds. "Hey, what's your name, and



**12:40 P.M.**

"I'm a little scared," admits senior Emily Carlton, picking up trash outside St. Patrick's Center, a homeless shelter, as part of Webster's Senior Leadership Seminar. The last time she was on this side of St. Louis, she was told to hide her belongings and to never be alone. "We don't see a lot of this stuff in

Webster," she says. "It's a small town."

Classmate Shekinah Holemon, who lives in downtown St. Louis, is also here picking up garbage. Seven years ago, Shekinah spent four months in a shelter like this one. Shekinah keeps this to herself, but gets frustrated sometimes. "They don't understand what it's like not to have anything," she says.



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SCHOOL

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

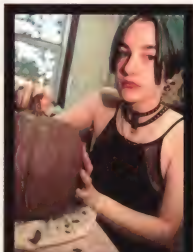
## A Long Dispute Boils Over

2:08 P.M.

"What are you going to do about this?" demands a Webster Groves mom of Detective Dreher, who's in a crowd of students across the street from the school. The mom's now out of her minivan and, between obscenities, tells Dreher that her son was just punched by another boy. His response: "I may have to arrest 'em both and lock 'em both up."

So Dreher escorts the two students—and the mom—back into the school and places them in separate rooms for a "cooling-off period." After that, assistant principal John Raimondo invites all parties into his office for a closed-door session to hear both sides of the story. A consensus emerges: the fight has been stewing since the summer, and it finally popped when one student allegedly spit on the other's locker.

Both sides are summoned down to the police station for a 5:30 p.m. meeting. There, no one is arrested or locked up, but the boys are simply instructed to settle their differences once and for all—with Officer Robert Nash presiding.



1:10 P.M.

Against her pale skin, the contrast of Mali Pursell's tight black dress is striking, as are her blue hair and spiral contacts. She has come into her own as a senior this year, but she remembers how hard it was being a freshman and all alone. Even now, she says, "I feel like the ones who will talk to me are doing it just to be cool—saying, 'Look, I'm talking to the weird girl.'"

where do I know you from?" Dreher asks a kid lurking outside the field. "I think you know me from getting into trouble, little things," the boy says sheepishly.

It's bigger things that have Dreher worried tonight. Just a few blocks away, a neighbor spotted a gun being passed to two white males in a Chrysler Le Baron. Though there's nothing to link the incident to Webster Groves High, he's scouring the parking lot for the car.

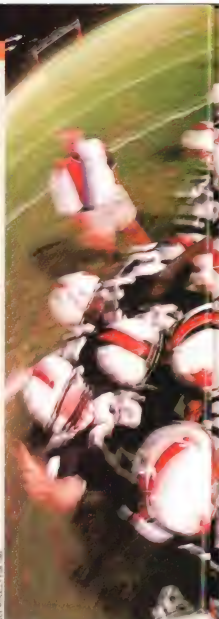
Faye Walker, Suspension Lady, patrols the sidelines in a white Statesmen T shirt, walkie-talkie in hand. "Don't make me work too hard!" she yells at a group of sophomores who have overfilled their section of stands and are climbing over the security bar. "You know," she says, "there are some people who came out here to see the game." But not many. The crowd is carbonated, all noisy and fizzed, relieved, distracted. Kids are focused on planning the postgame show: "Are you going to be at Rob's?" "How do you get there?" "Are his parents home?" One student is walking up to all the girls. He has a lilac ribbon pinned on that says KISS ME, IT'S MY BIRTHDAY. One girl says that it's not his birthday, but everyone obliges him anyway.

Matt Gewinner sits by himself. He says he's been thinking about his own death. Presently a girl sits down next to him and asks him what's up. He tells her that he's bummed. "Don't be bummed!" she says in a bubbly voice. She gives him a hug.

At half time Webster is way ahead, 48-14. As the players jog off the field, a girl screams, "Bobby! Bobby!" But Bobby doesn't hear her. He still hasn't got his touchdown. In the locker room, Coach Ice throws cold water on them. "I don't want to be happy beating a bad football team by four touchdowns. If we play a good team, we can't do crap like this. I want to play good football all the time."

When half time is over, Principal Voss corrals kids back into the stands. "There are parents and alums who are always here, always in the same seats," she says. Then she pauses, looking out over the field. "The kids always say they can't wait to get away from here," she remarks, with the knowing tone of one who has seen generations seep through her school, "but they always end up coming back."

Town-council member Charles Schneider graduated in 1967, and he knows how much has changed since then. The stands used to be packed for home games. "Now, so many things compete for their time," he says. "People watch so much TV now, or they go off somewhere in their car. When I was a kid, we stayed close to home in our parties, our socializing. Now it's common for kids to drive a long way, to go down-



town. I went there maybe once when I was a teenager."

*We ain't scared, we ain't cocky.*

*Gonna ride over you like a Kawasaki.*

*Hey, zoom, zoom.*

Senior Zach Wood is still trying to get his head around the prospect of his dad's wedding tomorrow. At this point he says he's "cool with it." He is sitting with a friend who is trying to convince him that he should not take next year off. "College is good. Go to college," she implores. He tells her, "I'm going to junior college because I have no idea what I want to do, and I refuse to pay a four-year college tuition when I could pay a fraction of that and figure out what I want to do."

Beth Perez is on a date tonight, sort of.





**VICTORY:** An exhilarated Webster team converges in a huddle of helmets and hair cream.

She's wearing gray slacks and a black shirt that shows a little midriff, with black dress sandals. A boy spills cookie crumbs down her cleavage, to her disgust. She's got one eye on the game and one on a junior soccer player whom she kissed at a party last weekend. They spent the first part of the game sitting with their friends; then, after half time, they find a spot of their own. However, since everybody knows everybody here, she ends up very near a party including Mrs. Walter, the biology teacher. A discussion of flatulence, led mostly by the adults, ensues.

We are (clap, clap) Webster (clap, clap).

The second half is crushing, merciless. Webster scores again and again. Finally, finally, Beth's swain puts his arm around

her. But time has been ticking down. Just as he does it, defensive back Carl Whitaker intercepts and runs from his own 10 all the way down the field and scores as the clock runs out. Beth leaps up and screams, and the boy's arm slides off—for now. Webster wins 61-14. The crowd whoops, the cheerleaders kick, parents, including Bobby's, run out onto the field to grab their smelly kids and hug them.

The crowd pours out the gates into the parking lots, into the night. A few players linger, savoring the sheer size of the win. When the last of the stadium lights goes out, Bobby leaves with his friends, once again without that touchdown. Karl, the quarterback, rides home in his parents' van. Three taxis arrive to take home the

vars kids who play on the team but live in St. Louis.

At 10:30 p.m. the field is empty, and the last students are spilling out of the parking lot, windows down and music blaring. Principal Voss huddles in the center of the parking lot with assistants Clark, Raimondo and White, and Detective Dreher. "You almost work 24 hours a day at this job," says John Raimondo. "I've been going since 6 this morning." For her part, P.V.'s school day started at 5:45, "but it's pretty normal for me to leave this late on a Friday."

"Good weekend, John," she says, and makes her benedictions. And as they climb into their cars, one by one, the walkie-talkies are finally turned off.

—N.G.



# TV'S COMING-OUT

Gay characters have quietly become hot. Can their love lives?

By JAMES PONIEWOZIK

**T**HE FIRST TUESDAY OF HIS second season on the air was a big day for Will Truman. Will, the male half of NBC's *Will & Grace*, went on a date, after spending last year setting an endurance record for getting over a painful breakup. The date was with a hunky bookstore clerk we saw for all of five teasing seconds, but it was a date nonetheless. His other accomplishment: The Top-20 *W&G* beat its straight-couple neighbor, ABC's *Dharma & Greg*, in the first round of a pitched battle for ratings.

And there you have the state of gayness on television in 1999: TV has come out, within fuzzily defined but undeniable limits. Since the much touted coming out of Ellen DeGeneres in 1997—and the much noted rapid demise of her sitcom in the following season—prime time has seen an influx of popular, prominent and well-rounded gay characters without *Ellen*-esque audience or advertiser cavils. Indeed, there's so much cachet in being gay that even straight characters are trying it. On Fox's *Action*, scheming movie producer Peter Dragon received oral sex from a star to whom he passed himself off as gay, and in what promises to be a head-turning second episode of Fox's *Ally McBeal* on Nov. 1, Ally engages in steamy lip-wrestling with another woman.

That straight characters are getting





# PARTY

more on-screen same-sex action than gay ones speaks to the bizarre rules surrounding gay sexuality on TV. The first strange rule: gay men are more lovable than gay women. But girl kisses are better than boy kisses—and it's best if at least one girl is straight. Straight actors playing gay (as in Eric McCormack, who plays lawyer Will Truman) go over better than openly gay actors (DeGeneres), and so on. Thus America is apparently ready for implicit fellatio as a punch line or for a foxy hetero babe's experimentation, while actual gay characters such as Will—though enjoying increasingly substantial roles—still have libido restrictions.

There are nearly 30 gay or lesbian characters in prime time (depending on how you count and categorize them). Most are post-*Ellen* additions, and they are no longer limited to bit roles and punch lines (though TNT dropped a stereotypically gay "character" from *World Championship Wrestling* after receiving complaints about gay bashing). ABC's *Oh Grow Up* and *Wasteland* feature gay leads with actual, if tentative, love lives (Ford, a lawyer who's just left his marriage, and Russell, a closeted soap actor). *Action* has two gay regulars: one is Bobby C., a ruthless studio head whose massive male endowment symbolizes his show-biz power and the hetero fear of gay sexuality (literally striking dumb straight men who witness it).

Interestingly, in a season of protest over the underrepresentation of racial minorities, series creators have managed to add gay characters without getting much pressure to do so. One factor is that while coming out is still daunting to

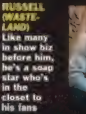
**WILL AND JACK (WILL & GRACE):** These two wildly different gay characters have ridden their comic interplay into the Nielsen Top 20

## Prime-Time Pride Parade

**GUS AND WALLY (MISSION HILL)**  
Animated proof that not all gay men are glamorous young hardbodies



**FORD (OH GROW UP)**  
He's left the closet, left his marriage and stepped (gingerly) back into the dating pool



**RUSSELL (WASTELAND)**  
Like many in show biz before him, he's a soap star who's in the closet to his fans



**BOBBY C. (ACTION)**  
His sexuality symbolizes his immense—and we do mean immense—power as a Hollywood producer

actors, there are a number of openly gay TV writers and producers, including *Wasteland*'s Kevin Williamson (who worked a regular character's coming-out story line into *Dawson's Creek* last season). *Oh Grow Up*'s Alan Ball and *W&G*'s co-creator and co-executive producer Max Mutchnick. In addition, the pioneering DeGeneres is developing a show for CBS. The network says it's unknown whether she'll play a gay character but contends she's free to.

Gay writers and producers "realize it's their responsibility to create gay characters" because the straight guy down the hall isn't going to," says Scott Seomin, entertainment-media director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Gay characters still account for only about 2% of TV's roster, and with scant exceptions, we generally see a lone gay character associating largely with straights, viewing pals' sexcapades from the sidelines with what-fools-these-breeders-be amusement. But if nothing else, gay and straight characters show a new openness, sophistication and realism, sometimes with the help of consultants: GLAAD worked with McCormack to refine Will after the show's pilot. ("No gay man had hair like Will's, really long in the back," jokes Seomin. "He looked like Jerry Seinfeld.") Certainly much of the biting banter and in-jokes of *W&G*—"I haven't seen a kiss that uncomfortable since Richard Gere and Jodie Foster in *Sommersby*"—would be unimaginable in the era of *Three's Company*'s fairy jokes. Some shows even cultivate what you might call a gay sensibility. HBO's heterosexual (and how) sitcom *Sex and the City* regularly broaches sexual gray areas, taking the perspective, less broadly embraced among straights, that sexuality isn't either-or but a continuum. The *Ally McBeal* same-sex kiss episode, for all its easy titillation, takes the same view.

Gay content and gay characters—increasingly common accessories on shows aimed at trendy young adults—serve as a sort of coolness shorthand, bestowing hipness on their shows and audience, serving as a conduit to cred for the majority group, just as racial minorities have in the past. From Norman Mailer's *White Negro* we've gone to the Gay Hetero. As a side benefit, these characters allow networks to put affluent white boys on the air and call it diversity. (Indeed, the elderly animated pair Wally and Gus on the WB's *Mission Hill* are notable not so much for making out in the show's premiere as for proving that gay men don't vaporize after age 30.) But *Spin City*'s Carter Heywood is the networks' only gay person of color, and we've scarcely seen working-class gays or bisexuals since Sandra Bernhard on *Roseanne*. Speaking of which, anybody remember lesbians? Judy Wieder, editor in chief of the gay-and-lesbian magazine *The Advocate*, says that although gay men's sexuality "seems to be more threatening to society in general than [that of] gay women," lesbians have largely been left out of TV's gay renaissance.

Mutchnick, Ball and Williamson are mum on how much of their characters' love lives audiences will see this season, and network execs' willingness to show air kisses among actual gay characters is vague and jittery at best. Weirdly, both *Wasteland* and *Oh Grow Up* have sent





THE OLD MAN AND THE MOWER: Straight (Farnsworth) follows the path of wisdom

## CINEMA

# A Grand Quest

Triumph and regret in a David Lynch surprise

ON AN IOWA ROADSIDE, THE OLD MAN chats with a pregnant runaway. For the girl, family is a prison, to be broken out of. The old man tells her that he used to give each of his kids a stick and say, "You break that." Of course they could. Then he'd tell them to tie some sticks in a bundle and try to break that. And they couldn't. "Then I'd say, 'That bundle—that's family.'" The next morning, the old man wakes up to find the girl gone, with the hint that she'll be returning home. On the ground is a bundle of sticks with a bow tied around it.

Alvin Straight (Richard Farnsworth), hero of David Lynch's *The Straight Story*, brings out the best in people—by talking or listening to them or just by the example of his tortoise-like quest. He is driving his John Deere lawnmower 350 miles to see his estranged brother. Alvin turns out to be your basic Lynch hero: a Kyle MacLachlan type, as average as apple pie, who follows his obsessions to heaven or hell. The supporting cast is normal too—and thus vastly weird, because Lynch presents them, as he did the sickos of *Blue Velvet*, without comment or condescension.

This true tale might seem to have all the narrative momentum of a lawnmower pulling the Cheops pyramid up an Alp. It does move, thanks to the script by John Roach and Mary Sweeney. It keeps finding new ways to make rural decency dramatic. But the soul of the film is in Farnsworth's eyes—great watery repositories of wisdom and regret. "The worst part of bein' old," he says, "is rememberin' when you was young." Alvin's tragic memories give perspective to the triumph of his trek, even as Farnsworth's weathered brilliance makes this movie a G as in gem. —By Richard Corliss

## MUSIC

# The Fire This Time

Thirty years after he shook the world at Woodstock, Carlos Santana is back on top

HERE THEY WERE, FACE TO FACE, A pair of legends. Carlos Santana, guitar god, spiritual guy and Woodstock vet, whose once great career was sagging, and Arista Records whiz Clive Davis, who signed the 52-year-old axman just when it looked as if Santana's next starring gig might be at the discount racks. It was time to draw up a blueprint for a comeback album. "So," Davis asked, "what does Carlos Santana want to do?" It didn't take Santana long to answer. "Mr. Davis," he said, "I want to reconnect the molecules with the light."

Such helium-filled, heartfelt pronouncements flow frequently from Santana's lips, but Davis had no trouble catching his drift. What Santana wanted was a hit. And a hit he got. The album the two men dreamed up, *Supernatural*, has drawn into one of the year's biggest surprises, blowing past seemingly invincible blockbusters like Limp Bizkit and even the mighty

Backstreet Boys during its amazing run up the charts. Since its June debut, *Supernatural* has sold a cash register-popping 3 million copies while drawing an uncommonly diverse coalition of fans: grizzled 1960s hippies; university kids who prefer Dave Matthews but know a good jam when they hear one; Latin rockers lured by fiery guitar and tropical-tinged rhythms; and, as Santana himself describes them, "kids who aren't as old as my Metallica T shirt." *Supernatural*'s fortunes are still rising; this week it lands at No. 2 on the *Billboard* album charts and is knocking on the door, loudly, of the No. 1 spot.

What makes all this so uncommon is that classic rockers—especially the prodigiously talented psychedelia-tinged guitar slingers of the '60s and '70s—are usually considered by radio to be irrelevant to today's pop- and hip-hop-happy world as Benny Goodman was to the Woodstock generation. Santana's biggest smash, *Abraxas*, came in 1970. Radio now shuns most of the greats of Santana's glory days—the Who, the Allman Brothers, even Paul McCartney. Who cares if you're in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame? It's ratings they want.

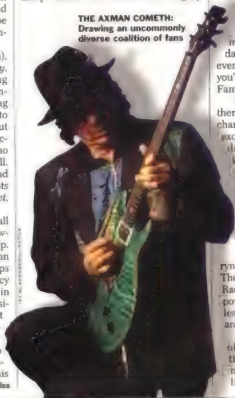
Still, Santana and Davis agreed that there was very little Santana needed to change. His lightning finger work and exquisitely formed fusion of blues, Hendrix-style guitar fireworks and Afro-Latin rhythms remain fresh. The key was coaxing a new generation of record buyers to discover a musician whose early hits are probably collecting dust in their parents' vinyl collections.

So Davis roped in a marquee full of guest stars to lend a hip, young edge: Dave Matthews, Lauryn Hill, Wyclef Jean, Everlast and Rob Thomas of the rock band Matchbox 20. Radio is lapping up the star-packed bill, powering the album's rise. And, not least, the songs are flush with energy and redemptive beauty.

*Supernatural* is a happy meeting of marketing and music. Maybe that's what Santana means by connecting the molecules with the light.

—By David E. Thigpen

THE AXMAN COMETH: Drawing an uncommonly diverse coalition of fans







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### MONTHLY RATES

Age	\$100,000		\$200,000		\$300,000		\$400,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
20-25	11.72	11.20	18.81	17.50	30.62	28.00	54.25	49.00
26	11.72	11.20	18.81	17.50	30.62	28.00	54.25	49.00
27	11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43	55.12	49.87
28	11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43	55.12	49.87
29	11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43	55.12	49.87
30	11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43	55.12	49.87
31	11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43	55.12	49.87
32	11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43	55.12	49.87
33	11.81	11.28	19.03	17.71	31.06	28.43	55.12	49.87
34	11.90	11.28	19.25	17.71	31.50	28.43	56.00	49.87
35	11.90	11.37	19.25	17.93	31.50	28.87	56.00	50.75
36	11.98	11.46	19.48	18.15	31.93	29.31	56.87	51.62
37	12.07	11.55	19.68	18.37	32.37	29.75	57.75	52.50
38	12.16	11.72	19.90	18.81	32.81	30.62	58.62	54.25
39	12.33	11.90	20.34	19.25	33.68	31.50	60.37	56.00
40	12.51	12.16	20.78	19.90	34.56	32.81	62.12	58.62
41	12.68	12.33	21.21	20.34	35.43	33.68	63.87	60.37
42	12.86	12.60	21.65	21.00	36.31	35.00	65.62	63.00
43	13.03	12.77	22.09	21.43	37.18	35.87	67.37	64.75
44	13.38	13.03	22.96	22.09	38.93	37.18	70.87	67.37
45	13.62	13.38	24.06	22.96	41.12	38.93	75.25	70.87
46	14.35	13.65	25.37	23.62	43.75	40.25	80.50	73.50
47	15.05	14.00	27.12	24.50	47.25	42.00	87.50	77.00
48	15.83	14.43	29.09	25.59	51.18	44.18	95.37	81.37
49	16.62	14.87	31.06	26.68	55.12	46.37	103.25	85.75
50	17.50	15.31	33.25	27.78	59.50	48.56	112.00	90.12

### MONTHLY RATES

Age	\$100,000		\$200,000		\$300,000		\$400,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
51	18.37	15.75	35.43	28.87	63.87	50.75	120.75	94.50
52	19.25	16.18	37.62	29.96	68.25	52.93	129.50	98.87
53	20.21	16.80	40.03	31.50	73.06	56.00	139.12	105.00
54	21.26	17.41	42.65	33.03	78.31	59.06	149.62	111.12
55	22.66	18.20	46.15	35.00	85.31	63.00	163.62	119.00
56	24.06	18.98	49.65	36.96	92.31	66.93	177.62	126.87
57	25.55	19.86	53.37	39.15	99.75	71.31	192.50	135.62
58	27.30	20.91	57.75	41.78	108.50	76.56	210.00	146.12
59	29.48	22.13	63.21	44.84	119.43	82.68	231.87	158.37
60	32.37	23.62	70.43	48.56	133.87	90.12	260.75	173.25
61	35.96	25.28	79.40	52.71	151.81	98.43	296.62	189.87
62	39.98	27.03	89.46	57.09	173.93	107.18	336.87	207.37
63	44.82	29.05	101.06	62.12	195.12	117.25	383.25	227.50
64	49.87	31.76	114.18	68.90	221.37	130.81	435.75	254.68
65	55.82	35.26	129.06	77.65	251.12	148.31	495.25	289.62
66	62.03	39.55	144.59	88.37	282.18	169.75	557.37	332.50
67	68.88	44.53	161.21	100.94	315.43	194.68	623.87	382.37
68	76.12	50.13	179.81	114.64	352.82	222.68	698.25	436.37
69	84.70	56.52	201.25	130.81	395.50	254.62	784.00	502.25
70	94.85	63.70	226.62	148.75	446.25	290.50	885.50	574.00
71	106.31	71.48	255.28	168.21	503.56	329.43	1000.12	651.87
72	118.82	80.06	286.56	189.65	566.12	372.31	1125.25	737.62
73	132.82	89.33	321.56	212.84	636.12	418.68	1265.25	830.37
74	148.66	99.31	361.15	237.78	715.31	468.56	1423.62	930.12
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20-25	16.62	14.80	31.90	24.54	55.12	42.08	103.20	77.80
26	16.86	14.88	31.71	24.71	56.43	43.43	105.81	77.87
27	16.86	14.77	31.71	24.83	56.43	43.57	105.87	78.79
28	16.86	14.73	31.71	24.83	56.43	43.58	105.87	78.79
29	16.86	14.71	31.71	24.83	56.43	43.58	105.87	78.79
30	16.86	14.71	31.71	24.83	56.43	43.58	105.87	78.79
31	16.86	14.71	31.71	24.83	56.43	43.58	105.87	78.79
32	16.86	14.71	31.71	24.83	56.43	43.58	105.87	78.79
33	16.86	14.71	31.71	24.83	56.43	43.58	105.87	78.79
34	17.15	14.86	32.57	25.10	57.75	44.15	108.66	79.60
35	17.32	14.83	32.81	25.06	58.62	44.18	110.28	81.87
36	17.47	14.81	33.40	25.03	59.47	44.08	111.79	83.12
37	18.02	14.80	34.30	25.00	62.12	44.05	115.28	86.82
38	18.46	15.31	35.00	25.78	63.31	44.08	121.62	93.12
39	18.87	15.66	35.75	26.05	67.37	45.07	127.79	103.87
40	19.30	16.70	36.87	26.90	71.75	45.83	136.30	108.87
41	20.36	16.60	40.90	31.50	77.60	50.00	147.50	105.80
42	21.25	17.50	40.00	31.00	81.10	50.00	150.00	112.87
43	23.71	18.37	46.78	30.43	86.46	53.40	174.33	120.46
44	26.31	19.07	50.26	31.70	97.88	57.37	188.32	127.79
45	28.67	19.71	50.00	30.93	100.00	50.00	200.00	108.87
46	28.82	20.00	50.00	30.00	110.00	73.84	205.00	108.87
47	29.40	20.80	53.00	31.00	110.00	76.12	211.00	100.00
48	30.80	21.00	60.00	32.00	120.00	76.75	240.00	108.87
49	32.40	21.57	70.00	34.00	130.00	83.37	260.00	108.87
50	36.47	22.40	75.00	38.00	140.00	85.37	280.00	108.87

### MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000		\$1,000,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
51	36.83	23.82	81.50	48.56	156.18	90.12	305.37	173.25
52	39.40	23.87	88.18	51.18	169.31	95.37	331.62	183.75
53	42.50	28.00	85.97	54.25	183.75	101.50	360.50	196.00
54	46.22	27.27	92.81	57.53	198.62	108.06	390.25	209.12
55	48.69	28.70	100.00	61.20	214.81	115.50	422.62	224.00
56	51.63	28.27	116.34	65.19	229.68	123.37	452.37	239.75
57	54.20	27.49	126.12	68.68	243.25	130.37	479.50	253.75
58	57.50	28.42	135.00	73.00	259.00	139.12	511.00	271.25
59	61.51	28.50	143.20	76.81	279.56	149.62	552.12	292.25
60	67.00	30.41	157.71	85.63	308.43	164.06	609.87	321.12
61	73.93	31.83	174.34	94.66	341.68	181.12	678.37	355.25
62	87.11	40.00	192.00	103.20	377.56	199.50	748.12	392.00
63	89.00	40.00	204.18	114.40	421.31	221.81	835.62	436.62
64	101.18	50.12	242.37	127.31	477.75	247.62	948.50	488.25
65	116.20	57.20	280.00	140.00	553.00	278.25	1099.00	549.50
66	130.50	68.25	305.71	168.12	654.50	313.25	1302.00	619.50
67	161.00	75.00	392.87	175.87	778.75	351.75	1550.50	696.50
68	188.00	84.50	440.00	200.00	913.93	394.62	1820.87	782.25
69	210.33	94.00	507.64	208.75	1048.68	444.50	2090.37	882.00
70	230.00	105.13	589.31	254.84	1171.62	502.68	2336.25	998.37
71	260.00	119.20	648.50	267.65	1290.18	568.31	2573.37	1129.62
72	287.00	133.70	700.40	323.75	1411.81	640.50	2816.62	1274.00
73	300.71	149.53	760.20	363.34	1525.56	719.68	3044.12	1432.37
74	329.52	167.38	813.31	407.96	1619.62	808.93	3232.25	1610.87
75	340.00	187.51	844.59	458.28	1682.18	909.56	3357.37	1812.12

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# Necessary Targets

Eve Ensler takes to the stage to push feminist and social-activist causes. Men are allowed too

By RICHARD ZOGLIN

ONE WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT ART is not gender specific. Women should be able to appreciate a testosterone-drenched Tarantino film, just as guys ought to feel O.K. sneaking a few tears at the latest Susan Sarandon sudser. But any man who braves the theater for a performance of *The Vagina Monologues* had better be prepared. Eve

Ensler's play is a series of monologues based on interviews with real women on the subject of their most intimate body part. There are lists of answers to "empowering" questions ("If your vagina could talk, what would it say?") and harrowing first-person accounts of sexual abuse; diatribes against gynecological exams and reveries about genital hair. It's enough to make you want to go home, grab a brew and watch *Monday Night Football*.

But let's get liberated. *The Vagina Monologues*, which has been staged around the world, most notably with an all-star cast in New York City last year, is now off-Broadway, being performed solo by its author. Shorn of the somewhat overbearing I-am-woman-hear-me-roar vibes of the celebrity-studded version, its strengths as a one-woman show become apparent. Sitting on a stool with only a few lighting effects for embellishment, Ensler can soar to Rabelian heights (giving a bravura impression of every type of orgasmic moan) or move us with quiet compassion (a woman in her 70s describes the embarrassing episode as a teenager that all but ended her relationship with the place "down there").

"My drive as an artist has always

been to look at areas that are right in front of us that no one wants to look at," says Ensler, 46, who began interviewing women for *The Vagina Monologues* after she was "shocked" at the way a friend talked disparagingly about her own sex organ. The work has become the centerpiece of an annual effort on Valentine's Day to raise money to fight violence against women. "You know when your life mission shows up and you can no

ways women mutilate their bodies to satisfy cultural norms, from Thai women who wear heavy metal braces to elongate their necks to American teens who starve themselves to stay thin. She visited Oklahoma City after the bombing of the federal building ("Timothy McVeigh to me is a fascinating character") and spent 10 days last summer in Kosovo gathering stories about women's experiences during the war ("I came back and just cried for a week"). This is not a woman short of dinner-table conversation.

Her political activism blossomed out of a troubled youth. She has described being abused physically and sexually by her father while growing up in Scarsdale, N.Y. She turned to alcohol in high school and, after Middlebury College in Vermont, wandered the country in a haze before

cleaning herself up and starting to write. Her social-activist pieces keep coming; *Borrowed Light*, an evening of the writings of women prisoners that she conceived and directed, was given a benefit performance in Manhattan last week. Yet she has branched out into less didactic theater too. Her play *Lemonade*, which just opened at Houston's Alley Theatre, is an elusive, Pinteresque drama about a strange man who shows up in a woman's kitchen hiding a secret.

Married once and divorced (she has legally adopted her former stepson, actor Dylan McDermott), Ensler has channeled her political activism into more conventional arenas as well, making friends with the First

Lady and joining her exploratory committee for the U.S. Senate race in New York. "I feel like Hillary Clinton has the potential to be a true leader of women," she says, "to really speak our voice." Until then, Ensler is speaking it loud and clear. "When people come out of the theater, women and men, this enormous energy gets liberated," she says. "I really believe that is the energy that will keep this planet going." She may not save the world, but what other playwrights even think of trying? ■



**PASSION** Ensler in *The Vagina Monologues*; above, *Lemonade* in Houston

**"You know when your life mission shows up and you can no longer avoid it... I had to do something major."**

longer avoid it," she says. "I suddenly realized I had to do something major."

Life missions seem to come as easily to Ensler as gag lines to Neil Simon. She has written a one-woman show about nuclear disarmament and another based on the stories of homeless women. Her play *Necessary Targets*, drawn from the accounts of Bosnian rape victims, was performed in January at Washington's Kennedy Center in front of Hillary Clinton. Next year she is planning to tour in a new piece, *Points of Re-Entry*, about the



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# Doo-Wop And Knife Fights

Bolcom's *A View from the Bridge* packs the punch of a boilermaker

By TERRY TEACHOUT

ARTHUR MILLER LOOKED POSITIVELY giddy as 3,500 Chicagoans stood up and yelled at him. No, it wasn't a riot, but the final curtain call at this month's world premiere of *A View from the Bridge*, William Bolcom's operatic version of Miller's 1955 play about love and death on the Brooklyn waterfront. The Lyric Opera of Chicago bet big on Bolcom, giving his American-style grand opera a production worthy of *Aida*, and the horse paid off: *View* packs the theatrical punch of a double boilermaker.

"It's a kind of American verismo," Bolcom says of *View*, using the Italian term for such popular slice-of-life operas as Puccini's *La Bohème* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*. Sure enough, the tale of Eddie Carbone (baritone Kim Josephson), a middle-aged longshoreman who lusts after his young niece Catherine (soprano Juliana Rambaldi), has *verismo* stamped all over it, right down to the climactic knife fight. In this new version, adapted by Miller and co-librettist Arnold Weinstein, *View* has acquired a Greek chorus that comments on the unfolding disaster, though the overall effect remains faithful to the original play. Think of *West Side Story*, only with the kids grown up—and angrier.

But there's more to *View* than switchblades and red sauce. Bolcom has refracted Miller's '50s angst through the prism of an unlikely source: Benjamin Britten's great opera *Peter Grimes*, in which a deeply alienated antihero confronts a band of small-minded English villagers who demand his conformity or his life. Incapable of

**SLICE OF LIFE:** Longshoremen opening crates of Scotch in the Chicago adaptation of Arthur Miller's play, one of the first American operas to view the immigrant experience

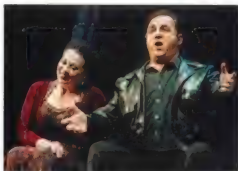
sleeping with his wife Beatrice (soprano Catherine Malfitano) and tortured by his dark longing for his niece, Eddie finds himself similarly ostracized by his fellow immigrants—a situation that allows Bolcom to deploy his chorus to galvanizing effect. *View* is among the first American operas to take as a theme the immigrant experience, and Bolcom, 61, is just the man to forge a musical language appropriate to the task. A prime mover in the ragtime revival of the 1960s, he has long been up to his ears in vernacular music, lavishly stirring it into his classical compositions (*McTeague*, *Songs of Innocence and Experience*) and accompanying his wife, the mezzo-soprano Joan Morris, in delectable recitals of popular song (they do everything from *Sondheim* to *Shine On, Harvest Moon*).

But while *View* is sprinkled with pop (including a doo-wop quartet and a Puccinized version of *Paper Doll*), Bolcom has succeeded in smelting many disparate styles into a tightly unified idiom all his own. There are times when the openhearted lyricism of a Leonard Bernstein would have been welcome, but the lean, laconic score keeps the action moving, lending Miller's kitchen-table natu-

ralism a freshening touch of poetry. Add in Josephson's star-quality performance as Eddie, the exemplary staging of Frank Galati (who directed Broadway's *Ragtime*) and Santo Loquasto's angular set—the Brooklyn Bridge as painted by Franz Kline—and you get a no-nonsense tragedy whose final curtain falls with the tight-lipped impact of a police report.

The triumphant premiere of *View* comes at the height of a late-century season of excitement over homegrown opera. Not only were new American operas successfully premiered across the country—among them *Central Park* and Lowell Liebermann's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*—but major houses finally started paying attention to the superbly stageworthy works of the pre-minimalist era. New York City's Metropolitan Opera produced Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah* (1955), while the New York City Opera presented electrifying revivals of Floyd's *Of Mice and Men* (1970) and Jack Beeson's *Lizzie Borden* (1965). Even Marc Blitzstein's agitprop classic *The Cradle Will Rock* is about to get a new hearing, courtesy of Tim Robbins' upcoming film about its stormy 1937 premiere.

In a way, the revivals are the happiest news of all, since American operas have tended to be staged once, then shipped off to the warehouse. That won't happen to *View*, which will be produced by the Met in 2002 (in return for which the Lyric, in its 2000-01 season will borrow the Met's production of John Harbison's *The Great Gatsby*, which is set to open Dec. 20). Chances are that it's headed for an opera house near you. Though only time will tell whether it has the staying power of a classic, *A View from the Bridge*—to lift a line from another waterfront classic of the 1950s—is already a contender. ■



**STAR QUALITY:** Josephson portrays a husband tortured by forbidden longing; Malfitano, his suffering wife



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BOOKS

# Ishmael, Meet Jane Eyre

A remarkable novel dares to take on Melville—and succeeds



YOU STEP ABOARD THE vaulting epic *Ahab's Wife* (Morrow; 668 pages; \$28), by Sena Jeter Naslund, and almost instantly you are in New England in 1840, a charged, visionary realm atremble with religious longings and debate. Privets are shaped like sperm whales. Inns are kept by witches. Women ask each other in passing, "What do you think of the afterlife?" Your guide through this God-racked wilderness is a classically captivating heroine, Una Spenser, drawn equally to storms and speculations.

We follow this spirited skeptic as she



**NASLUND:** Reimagining *Moby Dick* from a compassionate female perspective

looks at lightning head on (in a light-house), escapes to sea on a whaling ship (dressed, in Shakespearean fashion, as a boy) and takes Captain Ahab (who has the "mien of a weathered god") to her bed. Naslund is helping us, of course, to see the all-male world of *Moby Dick* through more compassionate eyes, and its protagonist as he might be glimpsed through "pity's tears." Yet what is remarkable here is not the revisionism. Naslund, author of four much smaller works of fiction, actually matches the master, Melville, in all his unearthly poetry and unworldly phi-

losophizing, following him not just into the details of harpooning and coffin-shaped beds, but also into bloodshed and delirium and diabolism. "Blast winds! and spank these sails as though they were the flanks of horses," cries her Ahab, and we shiver anew as we recall that, one paragraph earlier, Una has found in him a "soft glowing."

The narrator, obviously something more than the "sweet, resigned" wife that Melville hardly mentions, belongs to a world in which an intelligent woman's best friends might seem to be Wordsworth and Shakespeare and Keats; her story reads as if one of the Brontë sisters had gone off whaling. Yet for all the literary grandeur, much of the book possesses the reader like an unholy fever. A woman walks through the mist in a wolf-trimmed cloak. A madman cries, "Now we eat our fingernails. Now the spiny stars." Naslund writes with the fearlessness of her protagonist.

When, in its final passage, *Ahab's Wife* leaves Melville for dry land, it loses some of its fire; channeling her male precursor is what quickens Naslund into incandescence. By then, however, the soul has been shaken many times over. —By Pico Iyer



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# SHORT TAKES

## MUSIC

**PEACE** *Eurythmics* The bulk of the record-buying public—with the possible exception of Dave Stewart—wasn't exactly holding its breath waiting for the Eurythmics to get back together. As '80s-band reunions go, it's an event far less interesting



than a regrouping of the Police would be (though it's significantly more important than, say, a reunion of the Thompson Twins). Nonetheless, this turns out to be a welcome CD. Singer Annie Lennox and guitarist Stewart still work well together, and the songs, for the most part, are tuneful and uplifting. What's more, Lennox's voice has a cool dignity that imbues *Peace* with a depth beyond mere nostalgia. —By Christopher John Farley

**THE ONCE AND FUTURE** *The Jazzyfistas* Some CDs have a single great song that leaps out at you. Some of the best CDs, however, have a kind of engaging mutability: every song is a potential winner, and your favorite track changes with your mood. That's what Tracey Moore and Mercedes Martinez have created. The neo-soul singer-songwriters may have a ridiculously unwieldy group name, but their CD is fabulously smooth, good from start to finish. With old-school heart and new-school attitude, they're Robert Flack plus Sade with a little D'Angelo thrown in. —C.J.F.



## CINEMA

**THE STORY OF US** *Directed by Rob Reiner* Two nice folks, with two nice kids—and they all lived miserably ever after. So Ben (Bruce Willis) and Katie (Michelle Pfeiffer) are nearly splitsville. The Alan Zweibel-Jessie Nelson script, which wants to be true and funny, tries too hard to be either. There are a few moments (notably Pfeiffer's sweet, blather-y peroration) to remind you of when a Rob Reiner film was a treat and not a

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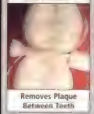
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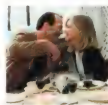


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## SHORT TAKES

chore. But mostly the movie is like the marriage: good casting, golden promise, yet somehow a grating ordeal. *The Story of Us* means to describe pain; instead, it inflicts it. —By Richard Corliss



## BOOKS

**ETHEL & ERNEST** By Raymond Briggs A best seller in Britain, this winsome little book is one family's 20th century, told as a comic strip that fast-forwards through the decades. Briggs' artful rendering of his parents' striving captures the English working class, and as the tale progresses, you find your-



self slowly sucked into their daily patter, amused by their cooing voices, impressed by their bravery. At the end, you're hardly prepared for the emotional wallop. —By Steven Henry Madoff

**PLAINSONG** By Kent Haruf The title says it all, or perhaps too much: a "simple and unadorned melody," as the author explains it, announcing his supposedly humble intentions. There are some echoes here—of Hemingway, Cormac McCarthy, even Harper Lee—and Haruf's gentle novel gives off a familiar backwoods, cold-mountain whiff. This time we're in Colorado cattle country, with Ike and Bobby Guthrie, ages nine and 10; their father Tom: two bachelor farmers, Harold and Raymond McPherson; and Victoria Roubideaux, a pregnant teenager with nowhere to go. Once the McPhersons agree to care for Victoria, Haruf has roped in his plot as if it were the most cooperative of heifers. The clichés are plentiful, but this is a lovely read, illuminated by sparks of spare beauty. —By Elizabeth Gleick







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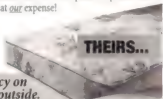
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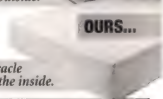
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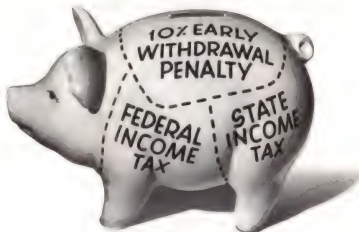
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Melissa Etheridge's new album, *Breakdown*, is now in stores.

**Q. Do your parents own VH1?**

**A.** I know, I'm all over the dang thing. It's VHME1.

**Q. When you were 11 you wrote a song about Vietnam. You were this close to being Natalie Merchant, weren't you?**

**A.** So close. I came to that crossroads, and I said, "No. Let's rock."

**Q. Fans toss their bras onstage at you.**

**A.** And you wear leather pants a lot. Are you the lesbian Tom Jones?

**A.** Someone has to be. It happens a lot when [it's] in an article, and everyone takes an extra bra to the show.

**Q. People aren't taking off their bras?**

**A.** Some of them do, and it's awful. I pay my crew extra if they catch the bra before it hits the ground and remove it.

**Q. Your partner Julie Cypher collects bowling balls. What does her therapist say about that?**

**A.** I don't know. But it's hard to go, "Look, honey, I've been around the world, and I've collected you bowling balls."

**Q. Maybe it's just a test of your love. She thought, "What's the heaviest thing I can get someone to bring back for me?"**

**A.** She's a funny girl.

**Q. Did Brad Pitt father your children?**

**A.** Joel, I'm not going to tell you.

**Q. It is a man, right?**

**A.** Yes, it's a man.

**Q. And he's famous.**

**A.** Yeah. Otherwise we'd say, "Yes, it's some Joe down the street."

**Q. So it's Brad Pitt.**

**A.** It's not Brad Pitt.

**Q. Come on, it's better if it's Brad Pitt.**

**A.** It's good for his career, for your career.

**A.** And it's good for my kids.

**Q. When you played bars, you did Barry Manilow covers. What songs did you do?**

**A.** I did a whole medley. I opened up with *Daybreak*.

**Q. I like *Daybreak*.**

**A.** You are so queer.

—By Joel Stein

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FORGET WALL STREET. MORE THAN 75 YEARS AGO, A Stanford University economist named Thorstein Veblen predicted that one day, engineers would be the true masters of the financial universe. It's technology that drives the economy, he argued, and since engineers create the stuff, it'll only be a matter of time before they come to their senses, seize power and undercut the venture capitalists and corporate bigwigs who make so much dough from other people's brilliant ideas. Veblen was right, it turns out. And

though they never met, the man who would lead the revolution was a more recent Stanford professor, peripatetic Jim Clark.

Clark went on to found Silicon Graphics, Netscape and Healtheon, creating three multibillion-dollar companies. (So far.) I learned about Veblen—and loads about Clark—in Michael Lewis' new book, *The New Thing: A Silicon Valley Story* (Norton; \$25.95). It's a superb book and explains how engineers are the greatest creators of wealth in history and why Silicon Valley is the center of the universe (and how Clark came to be the center of the Valley). I tend to dislike most nonfiction, since so many writers approach their work as if they were doing the reader a favor—"Sit down and read this unreadably dull book because it's good for you." Not Lewis, who makes Silicon Valley as thrilling and intelligible as he made Wall Street in his best-selling *Liar's Poker*.

Clark is the perfect Silicon Valley Man, though he was born "somewhere below the poverty line" in Plainview, Texas. His father abandoned the family when he was a child, and his mother should have been on welfare, but it "never occurred to her," Lewis writes. Clark, a classic malcontent, enlisted in the Navy after high school, was misvalued and put in a class for especially slow delinquents, shipped out to sea, came back and was retested, this time scoring so well in math that it baffled his instructors.

He later got a Ph.D. in computer science and spent 10 years failing at various academic careers and a couple of marriages before reinventing himself and heading off to Stanford. There, he and his students

designed a microchip he called the Geometry Engine, which allowed computers to visualize objects in 3-D. Fruitlessly, he tried to license the thing to IBM, DEC and Hewlett-Packard, before starting Silicon Graphics to sell workstations with the chip. That's where Clark honed his distaste for venture capitalists, whom he saw as stealing his enterprise and putting it in the hands of managers. Clark never let that happen again, keeping control when he got financing for Netscape and Healtheon.

My only gripe: a writer's first duty should be to his readers, not his subject. Sometimes I got the feeling that Lewis so reveres his protagonist that he became his apologist. Clark, we're told, is restlessly obsessed with finding the next new thing—which is, apparently, a good quality. But another interpretation might be that Clark is simply driven by the pursuit of filthy lucre. There has to be a higher purpose to life than making yourself rich. During the '80s, we knew that the people making their fortune on Wall Street were hardly role models; yuppie was a derogatory term. Clark, for all his brilliance, uses his billions to do little more than buy himself great toys; he's even cynical about the get-rich-quick Net companies he's created. And yet he's our role model? He makes Bill Gates look enlightened. ■



DRIVEN: Clark in 1995 as the head of Netscape, one of his three big ventures

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### IN BRIEF

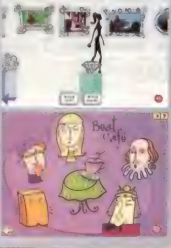
**ROAD PHONE** While everyone else hawks wireless phones, Imagitel is going retro with a new portable phone that has—you guessed it—a cord. But there are some nifty advantages. On the road, Imagitel's Millennium phone can be plugged in to avoid high hotel long-distance charges. Or you can turn one over to your away-from-home colleagues with prepaid long-distance service in hopes they'll call. The catch? Imagitel is the provider, though its rates (9¢ per min. at home, 19.9¢ away) aren't too bad.



**VOX POPULI** What will Bill Clinton do when he's out of office? Maybe he'll tool around [Vox360.com](http://Vox360.com). The new website is a wonk's dream. Not only is it a forum for policy discussion on national issues, it also points you toward activist organizations like the Sierra Club and helps you send letters to your local newspaper or Representative right from the site. So far, discussions have been low volume, but perhaps they'll heat up soon with posts like "Ex-Prez in N.Y."

**SAY IT WITH MUSIC** Now that virtual greeting cards from sites like Blue Mountain Arts are all the rage, what's next in technohellos? Well, for one, there's a new customizable birthday card on CD-ROM. For \$9.95 you can create a disc with music, backgrounds and animation tailor-made for your pals or kinfolk, picked from a catalog of offerings at [greetings.com](http://greetings.com). The personalized CD-ROMs also include extras such as lists of celebrity birthdays and a horoscope for that very special person.

—By Bill Sykes





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JAMES J. CRAMER

## Mr. November

In October, leaves fall gently, stocks fall hard, and investors lose their mind. Count me out

IF THEY WOULD EVER INVENT A CALENDAR WITH NO month of October in it, I would never have to sell a share of stock again. Until then, though, remind me next year that you can never take off enough stock

ahead of these 31 days unless you are a total masochist. What is it about this month that causes people to lose their senses and chop a third or even a half off the value of solid American companies, like Xerox or Raytheon or Unisys, that screwed up for a quarter? Why do people who are perfectly

rational shareholders the 11 other months of the year get gripped with a frenzied groupthink that forces them to shoot first and not even bother to ask questions later?

History and memory are powerful forces in a market that has suffered through a trendless, choppy five-month period. With no conviction about its current direction, many traders always pause to remember the two one-day 500-point declines, both of which took place in October. Even Fed chief Alan Greenspan got into the October-

infects everyone from mutual-fund managers to individual investors, who can blame these sellers? The technology-fund investors have the added woe of not knowing what awaits them with the year 2000 changeover, something that a slew of tech companies that reported earnings this week said, suddenly, had begun to impact the bottom line negatively.

While these reasons all have resonance, your basic trader is a superstitious fellow, given to viewing charts that show graphically how a company's stock has fared over time. One quick perusal of the chart book shows a heart-stopping dip every 10th month of the year. Why tempt fate? Why not just get out ahead of that plunging line?

I wish I could tell you that in my business I am known as Mr. October, like some sort of stock-market Reggie Jackson who steps up to the plate to trade while others quake and shiver.

But I'm not. I took an intentional walk. We sold a hefty amount of stock going into the month, raising cash to 50%, an abnormally high level for my hedge fund. As stocks have come down, I have reapplied that money to the market in a gingerly fashion. But the bulk of our spare cash is quietly benched in the bond market, waiting patiently for another 500-point sell-off to be put back on the stock field. Long-termers: Strictly sit tight. October too shall pass.

We've got only a couple of weeks of this horrid month left to get through. But that money won't burn a hole in our pocket, at least not until Nov. 1, 1999, when the spirits that haunt the market will vanish and the coast will once again be clear. ■

*James Cramer, a hedge-fund manager, writes for thestreet.com. This column should not be construed as advice to buy or sell stocks*

### Spooky Days in October



	Dow's Net Chg.	% Chg.
10/1/99	-66.8	-22.6
10/2/99	-34.3	-12.8
10/3/99	-39.6	-11.7
10/4/99	-13.8	-4.0
10/14/99	-10.6	-7.8
10/27/99	-124.1	-7.2

TIME Chart by Eliot Bergman

scare game last week, talking about how stocks might be too risky. Of course, he immediately said they might not be. But he referenced the Dutch Tulip Bulb craze, and that sent the market into still another October tizzy. It finished the week down 630 points, or 5.9%. In November, we wouldn't pay any attention to him, but in the month of Halloween, he spooked us good.

Given the curious one-off nature of those daylong specials—both of which produced monster returns if you bought bushels of stock the day after—some sellers are simply trying to raise enough cash for the expected mini-crash. Others, mindful that it has been a super market for tech all year, are anxious to take something off the table ahead of a quick sell-off that might wipe out those gains.

Given the buy-on-the-dip attitude that

### IN BRIEF

**MUTUAL-FUND TAX DODGE** On average, domestic mutual funds lose 2.5% of their total returns to capital-gains taxes, and few companies advertise their after-tax performance. Vanguard has become the first big firm to do so; others may follow. Until then, tax-minded investors—those investing outside an IRA or 401(k)—can find about 30 funds that are actively managed to minimize the tax hit. Here are a few top performers:

#### TOP TAX-MANAGED FUNDS

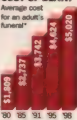
Fund	Total Return One Year*	Lost to Taxes
Standish Small Cap Tax-Sensitive	57%	0%
Eaton Vance Tax-Mgd Intl Gr	40%	0%
Bridgeway Ultra-Large 3S Index	37%	1%
Vanguard Tax-Mgd Cap App	37%	1%

\*Through 9/30/99

Source: Morningstar

**DIE ONLINE** Yes, e-death was inevitable. You can now buy an 18-gauge-steel Pietà model casket with velvet interior for \$845 at eCasket.com. Even when you tack on as much as \$500 for overnight delivery, you'll end up paying less than the \$2,400 some mortuaries charge. But the Net has its limits—you'll still need help getting into that casket.

#### THE RISING COST OF DEATH



\*Not including cemetery charges. Source: National Funeral Directors Association

Undertakers have tried to recoup dollars lost to cut-rate casket sellers by raising their service fees, up 9.6% over the past two years, to an average of \$1,182. These fees account for about a fourth of the typical funeral's cost, which has nearly tripled in the past 20 years, to \$5,020.

**LOSING YOUR NAME** In 1997 some 350,000 people called Trans Union, one of the three big credit bureaus, to report identity theft. It's a growing problem, and Trans Union now offers its policyholders identity-fraud insurance. For \$25 a year, the policy provides up to \$15,000 in coverage for lost wages, expenses and legal help needed to clear up credit reports and red tape—something self-employed or hourly workers may consider. To be safe, check your credit report every six months and shred financial data before dumping them. For more safety tips, see [www.consumer.gov](http://www.consumer.gov).

—By Julie Rawe







CHRISTINE GORMAN

## A Racial Gap

**Blacks undergo lifesaving lung-cancer surgery at a lower rate than whites. What can be done?**

DOCTORS HAVE LONG KNOWN THAT LUNG CANCER, which kills 160,000 Americans each year, takes a heavier toll among black Americans, particularly black men, than among whites. In part that's because 34% of black men in the U.S. smoke cigarettes, compared with 28% of white men. (Black women tend to smoke less than white women.) It also has to do with differences in income and access to medical care. But there has always been a lingering suspicion that some of the gap might be

due to either overt or subconscious discrimination. A study in last week's *New England Journal of Medicine* appears to bolster that disturbing conclusion.

Unlike other cancers, lung cancer is extremely hard to detect in its earliest, most treatable stages. Even so, about 20% of lung-cancer patients are found to have a tumor whose biological characteristics and small size give them a good chance of being cured if the malignant growth is surgically removed.

Researchers at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City and the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., looked at data from more than 10,000 white and black Medicare patients whose tumors were found early enough to make them candidates for surgery. About 77% of the white patients underwent the procedure, compared with 64% of blacks. The difference was sufficiently large to reduce the overall survival rate for black patients to 26% after five years, compared with 34% for whites. It's a gap that concerns the doctors. "People are dying needlessly," says Dr. Peter Bach of Memorial Sloan-Kettering, who led the study. He suspects "some combination of the procedure not being offered or pushed by doctors, and patients not accepting it."

If there is a silver lining to this, it's that those who were operated on had a similar survival rate regardless of race. So getting the word out that there is a proven treatment could help close the gap. It's also vital for doctors and patients to make sure they understand each other. Often it takes

only a little extra time and attention to bridge any cultural differences.

Better communication will be even more important as treatments become more complex. Currently there's no screening test for finding lung cancer early. (Chest X rays almost always catch it too late.) But Dr. Claudia Henschke of the Weill Medical College at Cornell University in New York City and her colleagues believe they have found a way to identify very small tumors with low-dose CAT scans. It's a new approach that all smokers and ex-smokers, regardless of race, should keep an eye on.

First the CAT scan picks up suspicious-looking lesions in the lungs. Then a radiologist determines whether those nodules warrant further investigation. Most of the time, that means waiting a couple of weeks or months to see if they grow (only 1 out of 10 lesions is cancerous). Sometimes it means undergoing a biopsy. "We found that people were willing to wait," Henschke says, in order to avoid potential complications from unnecessary surgery. The still experimental scan costs \$300 and is so far available only in New York City, Rochester, Minn., and Tampa, Fla. But if it becomes the next state-of-the-art weapon in the battle against lung cancer, the medical community needs to make sure its benefits are not limited to one group of people. ■

For more information on lung cancer, visit [time.com/personal](http://time.com/personal). You can e-mail Christine at [gorman@time.com](mailto:gorman@time.com)



**TOO BIG** A colorized X ray of an incurable tumor shows why early treatment is so crucial

**64%** of blacks with small tumors had surgery vs. **77%** of white patients with the same diagnosis.

## GOOD NEWS

**REVVED UP** It's Wouldn't it be great if drugs had no side effects? That's not about to happen. But a new report suggests that recommended dosages for many commonly prescribed medicines—among them Prozac and the cholesterol drug Lipitor—may be too high for lots of folks. Cutting down the dose, sometimes by half or more, may reduce adverse reactions without sacrificing a drug's ability to work. Don't go tinkering on your own, though. Check with your doctor.



## FERTILE MINDS

Turning conventional thinking on its head, scientists have shown that new brain cells continue to be generated in the cerebral cortex of an adult brain. Alas, the adult was a macaque monkey. Still, the finding marks the first time that new neurons—thousands of them a day—have been seen in the cerebral cortex, the most advanced region of the brain, responsible for reasoning, decision making and memory. The implication: If brain cells grow as we age, the discovery may one day lead to treatments for degenerative brain disorders like Alzheimer's disease.

## BAD NEWS

**WALK BY** Attention, parents: Baby walkers—those wheeled contraptions used to prop up infants—may hinder your child's development. Data on 109 babies suggest that tots who scoot around in them are slower to sit upright, crawl and walk—and score lower on mental tests. Why? The walkers' large trays prevent infants from seeing their legs move, depriving them of feedback about how their bodies operate. They also keep them from grabbing—and learning about—things around them. That's the theory, anyway.

## TO EVERY SEASON

A new study confirms an old suspicion: more heart-attack deaths occur in December and January than at any other time of year. Though cold weather can cause a rise in blood pressure, it doesn't explain the phenomenon; the research was conducted in Los Angeles, where temperatures rarely dip below 50°. More likely, holiday tugging on alcohol and salty, fatty food is to blame. Another possible explanation: wood-burning fireplaces release particles that can put stress on the lungs and heart. —By Janice M. Horowitz

Source: David Reizen, *Psychosomatic Medicine* (10/99); Science (10/10/99), *Endocrine Journal of Development* (6 Behavioral Pediatrics (10/99); *Circulation* (10/12/99)





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AMY DICKINSON

## Divided We Stand

As Hollywood keeps telling us, marriage isn't always a breeze. But do trial separations work?

MARRIAGE IS BIG LATELY. ACTUALLY, IT'S UNMARRIAGE that seems to be capturing our attention. From *American Beauty* to the just released Bruce Willis-Michelle Pfeiffer movie, *The Story of Us*, the institution is being turned inside out, and it's not a pretty sight.

To judge by these films, modern marriage involves a lot of broken china and busted expectations. While the current depictions of marriage may be overly pessimistic, each year half as many Americans get divorced as marry, and that's not a trifling statistic.

When two people first walk down the aisle, marriage and divorce seem like distant countries, each with its own language and customs. What many couples discover, when they find themselves caught between one and the other, is that there is a stop in between—a kind of neutral

together to establish some basic ground rules first. They should mutually agree on the length of the separation—Ahrons says three to six months is average—and both must continue to work on their own problems during that time, with or without a counselor.

Couples should agree not to see lawyers during their separation. Lawyers have a way of moving marriage toward divorce. They should not pursue each other at all, either to fight or reconcile, but should agree in advance on what kind of contact they will have. Separated couples can agree to speak on the phone for a prearranged period, for instance, or meet once a week. Some therapists advise their clients to agree not to talk to each other about their relationship during these encounters and to use the time apart to reflect on their own lives and see what they can change about themselves. If

there are children involved, Ahrons says, both parties need to agree on all the ground rules having to do with kids. Parents should also be aware that repeated separations and reconciliations are difficult and confusing for children.

Ahrons says a separation, while very painful, can help keep the anger down and give a couple time to think. If both are unsure about the future of the marriage, it can provide a time-out, during which they can see what life would be like without the other. "Sometimes," Ahrons says, "a separation can lead back into marriage. Sometimes it leads to divorce. But if couples are able to clarify things, it will improve their marriage—or make their divorce better." ■

See our website at [time.com/personal](http://time.com/personal) for more on marriage. You can e-mail Amy at [timefamily@aol.com](mailto:timefamily@aol.com)



**SPLIT DECISION:** For some, a last-ditch effort before divorce; for others, a chance to gain needed distance

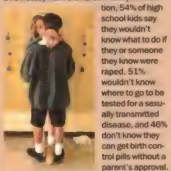
Switzerland for relationships—separation.

While states no longer mandate separation as part of the divorce process, marriage counselors say couples often choose to separate as a last-ditch effort to change their relationship, and possibly themselves. "Many trial separations don't work because they're not 'authentic'—they're just one person's way of getting out of the relationship," says Harriet Lerner, author of *The Dance of Anger*. But a separation can give couples time to calm down, renegotiate the rules of the relationship and gain some needed distance.

For a separation to work, it needs to be well defined. Constance Ahrons, director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Training program at the University of Southern California, says "structured separations" tend to be the most productive. Couples facing separation do best if they can come

### IN BRIEF

**SEX EDUCATION** Although children are constantly exposed to sex in the media, many are still desperately short of reliable information on preventing pregnancy and disease. In a new study from the Kaiser Family Founda-

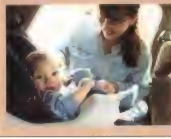


tion, 54% of high school kids say they wouldn't know what to do if they or someone they knew were raped. 51% wouldn't know where to go to be tested for a sexually transmitted disease, and 46% don't know they can get birth control pills without a parent's approval.

**REVENGE OF THE MUGGLIES** Harry Potter may sit atop the best seller lists, but parents in South Carolina have asked state school officials to ban the popular children's book series, claiming it promotes witchcraft and sorcery. According to one of the concerned parents, the volumes by British author J.K. Rowling, about an orphaned child who attends the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, contain a "tone of death, hate, lack of respect and sheer evil." State officials have said they will review the books and the recommendation.



**BUCKLE UP** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration last week notified automakers that rear-seat side air bags pose a possible safety risk to children. The agency is concerned that such air bags can hurt or kill children who are sitting too close to them when they inflate. Even though no such injuries have been reported, the NHTSA suggests that the bags be deactivated when cars are shipped to dealers. Once there, dealers can turn air bags back on if the owners request it. —By Daniel S. Levy





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JEFF CHAMBERLAIN—REUTERS



## CAN HE HAVE SLEEPOVERS?

Fortunately, **JERRY HALL** has a big house to match her big heart. Since being granted a divorce from **MICK JAGGER** in August after it was revealed that he had fathered a child with another woman, Hall has demonstrated her capacity for forgiveness by continuing to appear with him in public and going on joint vacations with their four children. And proving that divorce does not have to mean the end of a relationship, the two are said to be making plans to spend New Year's Eve together in France. Now comes word that Hall has allowed the midnight Rambler to move back into the spacious London home they previously shared and she retained in the divorce settlement. The two have not reverted entirely to their previous conjugal arrangement. Jagger is reportedly hanging his hat, if not his head, in a spare bedroom. No word on whether there are bars on the windows.

## Everyone Smile And Say "Juice"

Police officers often respond to 911 calls with loaded weapons. Two of Miami's finest got in trouble last week when they responded with loaded cameras. And who could blame them? They were, after all, following up on a call made by that legendary friend of law enforcement **O.J. SIMPSON**. Simpson had called police from girlfriend Christie Prody's Miami home seeking help for a friend he said had been on a two-day

cocaine binge. When police arrived, they found Simpson alone and, according to their report, learned that he and Prody had been involved in a "verbal dispute." After issuing Simpson a brochure on domestic violence, as required by law in such situations, the policemen asked him to pose for a picture. The photo op was not viewed kindly at headquarters, and the two cops have been temporarily reassigned to desk duty. That should give them ample time to discuss what is certain to be two of the department's more noteworthy Christmas cards this year.



MICHAEL BENNETT



## GOT ANY TIPS?

Here's one more reason to take vacations: It gives your employees a chance to write best-selling books. Last week **BREENA CLARKE**, who since 1985 has worked for a series of TIME editors, had her first novel, *River, Cross My Heart*, selected for Oprah's book club. "I wrote it while working full time," says Clarke, who now administers Time Inc.'s editorial-diversity program. "I used weekends and nights, and it always helped when editors took vacations." After Oprah's announcement, the novel shot up Amazon.com's best-seller list. Says current boss, Time Inc. executive editor José Ferrer: "My wife warned me that now I'll be working for Breena." Don't worry, Joe. She takes vacations too.

JOE



**WINNER:** *Law & Order*. Jay Leno has never been asked for an apology

## FEUD OF THE WEEK

**NAME:** *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*  
**OCCUPATION:** Scouring news for plot lines  
**BEST PUNCH:** On a recently aired episode of the NBC spin-off series, which focuses on sex crimes, a character none too euphemistically referred to an intimate act as getting "a Lewinsky."

**NAME:** Dr. Bernard Lewinsky  
**OCCUPATION:** Scouring news in fear  
**BEST PUNCH:** Demanded an apology from the series producer, saying, "There is a family behind this name... Why don't they say he got a Clinton job and see how the White House responds?"



REUTERS/ANDREW HARRIS



Roger Rosenblatt

# The Way We Look at Giants

The Big Dipper dominated his game, but carried an oversize burden

IT TOUGHT TO BE REMEMBERED THAT, AS INDISPUTABLY GREAT a player as Wilt Chamberlain was, he often evoked a public awe closer to loathing than admiration. "No one roots for Goliath," he lamented to his Los Angeles Lakers teammate Jerry West. The observation was both personally felt and generally interesting in what it says about the way people look at giants. Size (which matters) is an accident of biology, but we tend to treat it as an implicit assault on the averageness of the rest of us—a potential menace, an insulting excess—and there is a universal desire to see the big man fall.

Chamberlain, who died last week at the age of 63, not only dominated basketball, his presence clarified the character of the game. If sports were poems, baseball would be a sonnet, basketball free verse; the thing finds its form according to who is doing it. Chamberlain was responsible for major rule changes that altered basketball's structure—all delimiting the ability of giants to operate in the sky over a 10-ft.-high basket. By his athleticism, he proved that basketball required the world's best athletes, not simply the tallest. And, in a way, he also showed it to be a team sport. No matter how talented an individual is, no one player, including the divine Michael, can beat a well-coordinated group of five.

Quantity defined his life and was its curse. His statistics, like his being, seemed to have no relation to a terrestrial reality. On March 2, 1962, he set an NBA record by scoring 100 points in a game against the New York Knicks. He scored the most points in a season (4,029); had 50 or more points in a game 118 times; set the record for career rebounds (23,924), rebounds per game (22.9), average points in one season (50.4). Other numbers recalled last week: seven straight scoring titles and 11 rebound titles (in 14 seasons). To show how complete a player he was, his most remarkable stat may be that in 1968, he led the league in assists.

His wildest statistic—a boast made in his autobiography, and later regretted—that he had slept with 20,000 women, is noteworthy only in that it seemed more mathematically than physically improbable. Unquantified, though, were the many charities he supported, the causes he backed and the innumerable kindnesses to friends, who were steadfast and few. He lived alone and never married.

Not once did he foul out of a game, which says something

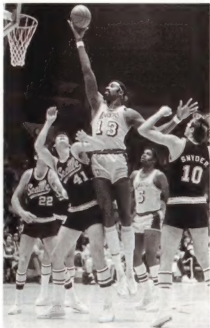
about the way he played and who he was. Chamberlain hardly ever got into a fight—partly because only the ostentatiously suicidal would start up with him, more because he seemed to appreciate the gentleness that his construction required. He picked opposing players off the floor when they tripped and fell. That weird shot of his—the monstrous and graceful Dipper Dunk—had the look of a man pouring lava from a vat into a teacup.

In a newspaper article he wrote in 1973, he complained about a gawking public who "demean and degrade my dignity." Few could know, he said, what it meant to be 7 ft. tall. "Hell, even [jockey] Willie Shoemaker doesn't have my problem. At least everyone was his size once." Height accounted for merely part of his giant-hood. I once went down to court-side at halftime to get a closer look at him. His hands were the size of easy chairs, his head, nose, eyes, everything colossal. And he was standing around with some of the biggest men on Earth.

For this alone—for this inhuman dimension—he was frequently reviled. He was not only too big, he was too everything, and so no one other than hometown fans ever wanted him to win. Winning for Goliath was simply not ordained, and when on occasion he did win (his two NBA championships), well, something had gone terribly wrong—a cosmic injustice. Never mind that men always want to be taller. This one overdid it and had to be punished.

Writing about the nature of laughter, the French philosopher Henri Bergson said that anything that defies or distorts the human form is funny. But giants are rarely funny. When they are not menacing, they are pitiable. People do not like bigness, even when they are impressed by it. There are sound reasons for fearing the recent megamergers of corporations, but there is also the irrational reaction that we do not like the idea of anything that makes puny our control, our self-regard, our size. Thus the insults "Big man! Big shot!" Thus the derisive "Big deal!" Thus Wilt.

He disliked the nickname "the Stilt," but he embraced the name "Dipper," which became "Big Dipper." He called his boat and his house *Ursa Major*. "It has a certain beauty and power and grace and majesty," he wrote. "And it represents something real, enduring, eternal. It's not just a nursery-rhyme reference to my height or some inanimate object." He added, "It's bigger than life itself," not indicating how hard that was to bear. ■



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